■ Business / B1 ■ Metro / A22 ■ Sports ■ Entertainment Tanong ng Bayan / A28

LRTA debt conversion set

Mothers of rob-slay suspects held

Trinidad TKOs Mayorga for crown

Grenade found in Al Al's house

Mga imbestigasyon ng Kongreso: May silbi ba?

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Rosales warns gov't vs granting amnesty

By Martin P. Nadi
and Jacelle G. Badilla
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

A CATHOLIC Church leader has warned the government against granting amnesty to the Falconed mutineers without any firm guarantee from the soldiers that they would not

(story from A-1)

Ex-agri chief hits back at detractors

By Norman Bordadora

SO, Bill me.

Departing from allegations that he had dumped cluster flights and call phone bills to the government, former Agriculture

Monday, October 4, 2004 ★ 42 pages | vol. 19 / no. 291
website: www.inq7.net

Palace to 15 GOCCs: Shape up or face ax

Execs told to come up with viable operational plans

UNDERWATER PARADISE
A spectacular show of colorful corals and fish 60 feet under the sea off Pescador Island in Moalboal, Cebu, attracted President Macapagal-Arroyo to its depths last week. The photographer, however, was interested not in colors as much as in the unknown names.

By D.C. Calimbahin Jr.
STAFF up or get the ax.

This was the morning of Malacañang to 15 government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions (GFIs), 13 of which, according to the Department of Budget and Management, lost a total of nearly P30 billion in 2003. (See list at right.)

Malacañang plans to slash heavily losing GOCCs to cuts in the government's budget deficit.

"We can abolish the non-performing GOCCs altogether if the rationalization sees its viable ones run among us, officials to turn these corporations around," Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said.

The biggest loss counted 10 GOCCs that lost a combined P146.2 billion last year.

The GOCCs and the GFIs accounted for P2 trillion of the P5.4 trillion public sector debt as of September 2003. These institutions have been among the main evil government, exacerbating the budget deficit and the public sector debt.

"Definitely we cannot afford to subsidize all of our GOCCs. We need to clean up our books and prune off unnecessary expenses," Boncodin said.

Boncodin was directed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to review the performance of the GOCCs and GFIs in the wake of warnings that the Philippines could face an Argentina-style crisis in two to three years unless it addressed its growing deficit and debt.

Malacañang and Congress have targeted the GOCCs in the ongoing austerity program because of their high interest rates

(story from A-1)

IN THE RED
Net Loss (2003) / GOCC

- (P7.163 billion) National Food Authority
- (P6.358 billion) Light Rail Transit Authority
- (P5.301 billion) Philippine National Oil Co.
- (P5.283 billion) National Electrification Administration and Electrification
- (P5.1 billion)* Philippine National Railways
- (P4.988 billion) Metrobank and Landbank Insurance Farms
- (P4.03 billion) Metrobanking Group Administration
- (P3.99 billion) National Telecommunications Co.
- (P3.98 billion) Telecommunications Co.
- (P3.938 billion) Philippine Coconut Authority
- (P3.34 billion)* Development Bank of the Philippines
- (P3.2 billion) Philippine Tobacco Industry Co.
- (P3.16 billion) Philippine Crop Insurance Corp.
- P3.14 billion* Home Guaranty Development Fund
- P3.14 billion* National Housing Authority

*GOCC's Corporation or Budget and Management Office or Department of Budget and Management Financial Statement

Bishop doubts gov't ignorant of 'jueteng' payola list

By Yolanda Sonido-Fuentes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
and Blanche S. Rivera

LINGAYEN (Pangasinan) Archbishop Oscar Cruz said he did not see the need to identify the officials receiving money from "jueteng" operations, dismissing back the challenge of naming them at Malacañang.

"If the government does not even know the already well-known big time (jueteng)

(story from A-1)

CORPUS: It's time for a long break

RP's only world-class special ice skater

By Blanche S. Rivera

WORLD-CLASS performance from ice skater Joanne Escorsa despite his disabilities.

Newsweek poll puts Kerry ahead of Bush

Kerry gets campaign back on track after debating Bush

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

Corpus ends controversial AFP career

By Fe Zamora
and Alexis Pagsa

GEN. RAYMUNDO Corpus, at age 60, ending one of the most controversial careers in Philippine military history as soldier, rebel, rebel-turned-minister and master spy.

Now, all this, Gen. Victor Corpus wants is a simple low-key life as a civilian, preferably in a farmhouse in Cantonment, Ireland, where he keeps a strange orchard.

"I think it's time for a long break, to be away from it all," Corpus told the Inquirer.

He said he was not interested in any government position, whether as a director in a government-owned and -controlled cor-

A3
WEATHER FORECAST
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2004
Second FRONTPAGE

Alleged Cebu drug kingpin charged

By Michaell Flores and Reuters
Headlines, PDI Uniquin Bureau

THE PHILIPPINE Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) yesterday announced the filing of criminal charges against the alleged leader of the illegal drug operation in Mandaue City which was raided by anti-narcotics operatives last July last week.

Celebrado Ayuma Tan was charged before the Mandaue City Regional Trial Court with violation of Republic Act 9165, the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Tan is currently detained in Hong Kong for violations of Chinese anti-illegal drug laws.

PDEA Cluster coordinator and Director General Anselmo Acosta Jr. said the agency is currently working with the foreign affairs department for Tan's immediate extradition.

Consul General Gonzalez and Home Affairs in Hong Kong told reporters the court suspension there did not affect Tan in any way but just rejected a request for continuing hearing his case of possession of dangerous drugs until Nov. 1.

Journalist said he did not know what prompted the Hong Kong court to issue such a decision when possession of dangerous drugs was a bailable offense there.

"I believe the magistrate decided to detain him there until Nov. 1 because of the representation made by the Philippine government," he said.

On Sept. 29, a Taiwanese-Filipino who holds a Philippine passport was arrested by customs officers in Hong Kong Int'l. with at a ferry terminal bound for Macau.

Seized from Taiwanese carbonating 18,20,000 to US and Hong Kong notes, as well as a small quantity of "ice" (methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu) and ecstasy tablets (or said only for the suspect's personal use.

He was also found carrying a number of passbooks to bank accounts that contained deposits amounting to $11 million.

That was believed to be the head of the operations of the Chinese drug laboratories and warehouses that were raided by anti-narcotics agents in three neighboring barangays in Mandaue City, Cebu.

Three of the 11 men arrested in the raid pleaded to Tan as the mastermind of the operation, calling the biggest in the Philippines, if not Southeast Asia.

Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco, vice chair of the House committee on illegal drugs, identified the three as Jeffrey Hsieh Lee and Filipinos Joseph Ta-ud Allan Tan Chua).

The others arrested were Chinese Hsu Sin Yu, Yeu Hsu and Liu Fu Taiwanese Hsu Tien Yi and Liu Li Fei, Malaysian Chew Wing and Liew Kuee Song, and Filipinos Joseph Lopez.

The 11, along with Tan, were charged with illegal manufacture of shabu before the RTC in Mandaue City. With a report from Jay L. Javier, PDI Digest Bureau

Let's talk, embattled Garcia tells detractors

By Norman Bordadora and Carlos Pedro

AFTER all the hullabaloo, embattled Government Service Insurance System president and general manager Winston Garcia yesterday offered the olive branch to disgruntled government employees and invited them to a dialogue to discuss the issues raised against him.

"Even those who have recently charged some actions in the GSIS are most welcome. I just hope that every issue would come with an open mind, ready to discuss issues rationally and without an intention to disrupt the proceedings," Garcia said.

The GSIS is still holding a series of discussions with representatives of its 15 million members to inform them of the reforms being implemented at the agency and to address the alleged "disinformation" being peddled by embittered groups.

"The agency has always been open to the ideas and suggestions of its members, thus the dialogue would just be part of the management's continuing effort to reach out to them," Garcia said.

Garcia said he warned all GSIS members and the public to beware that the GSIS had approved 1,421,011 loan applications amounting to P46.9 billion from January to August 2004 alone.

He said these figures should belie claims that the GSIS had stopped granting loans to its members. "We at the GSIS are quick to approve loans of our members as long as they pass the credibility," he said.

Garcia said he also wanted to update GSIS members on the programs being implemented, including the computerization of its database and the issuance of the GSIS eCard to members which would speed up the processing of payments, loan applications and other benefits, while weeding out fraudulent claims.

Operations normal

Meanwhile, GSIS assured its members that its operations were normal despite threats of more mass actions.

Oscarlito Vasquez, GSIS senior vice president for finance, made the assurance after some of GSIS members recently heaped accusations of fraudulent use of funds of the Philippines to launch their checks after rumors surfaced that the mass actions would engage GSIS.

Vasquez said that despite the large number of GSIS members who subscribed their checks, nobody has claimed money. "Even those who had a GSIS check have not encashed it," she said.

Ally in Congress

While Del admits are gunning up on Garcia, the embattled GSIS chief has found an ally in Congress.

Rep. Eduardo Zialcita of Parañaque City said he believes there was no basis for the calls for Garcia's ouster.

"Had by publicity like the one Mr. Garcia is subjected to like other city, has no place in a society that claims respect for democratic rights and the rule of law," Zialcita said.

Zialcita said Garcia had the constitutional right to be presumed innocent until found guilty by a court of law.

Garcia's critics include Representatives Maria Isabel Garcia Batallones of Iloilo, Eduardo Ochoa of Leyte, Benjamin Magsombol of Lanao del Sur, Nicanor Librado of Eastern Samar and Crispin Beltran of the party-list Anakpawis.

Amortization questioned

Recently, Beltran, head of an alliance broadside as Garcia, claiming the GSIS chief was remiss in fully paying the monthly amortization on his P2.1 million GSIS loan which Garcia used to buy a Volvo sedan.

Citing documents furnished by disgruntled GSIS employees, Beltran and Garcia was supposed to pay P66,414.67 a month for his loan.

However, the rate is inconsistently low for keeping only the amount of P43,123.06," Beltran said.

Garcia maintained the loan in June and had paid only P1,29,395.16 for the first three months instead of the required amount of P 397,242.21.

But Beltran's claim was cleared by a top GSIS executive yesterday who said that, in fact, Garcia had overpaid a previous loan by an amount of P71,000.

GSIS executive vice president Jacquelyn Demanez and Garcia received the P2.1 million loan on June 23, with the first monthly amortization of P66,414.67 due on August.

Demanez said the July 2004 amortization which Beltran claimed was an underpayment was actually referred to the monthly amortization of an earlier loan which Garcia had fully paid off as of June.

She said Garcia made the actual payment of the previous loan, the GSIS still deducted P1,29,395.16 from Garcia's June to August pay checks.

Demanez said the GSIS made its first deduction for the P129,395.16 in excess payment he made.

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Mahathir to discuss peace, fiscal crisis

FORMER Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad will discuss the Philippine government's efforts to make peace with Muslim separatist rebels in Mindanao when he meets with President Macapagal-Arroyo this week, a Filipino official said Sunday.

Mahathir will meet with Ms Arroyo over dinner tonight before his speech to the Philippine Business Conference on Tuesday, Romeo Dominguez, chairman of Manila-based Philippine Stock Exchange, said.

Ms Arroyo will likely thank Mahathir for his role in fostering the resumption of peace talks between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) whom he was in power, Romulo said.

He said Mahathir, who a confidant with developing Malaysia's economy, would also discuss Philippine efforts to avoid a looming fiscal crisis.

"The President said she would welcome any advice that Dr. Mahathir may wish to give her," Romulo added.

Mahathir is hosting the resumption of peace talks between the government and the MILF and is holding a summit from Muslim countries to monitor the cease-fire in the town Mindanao.

Mahathir will be accompanied by his wife, Dr. Siti Hasmah, on the two-day visit.

"This is a friendly visit and President Arroyo looks forward to an engaging and profound discussion with one of Asia's acknowledged statesmen," Romulo said. AFP

MAHATHIR

Sulu sultan vows to get Sabah back from Malaysia

THE MNLF crowned sultan of Sulu said on Sunday he would fight to get back the state of Sabah from Malaysian control, claiming territorial rights over the North Borneo territory.

"I will fight for it on friendly rights in the World Court," Jamalul Kiram told about 8 will hundreds of followers outside a mosque in Quezon City, where he was crowned the 28th sultan of the Sultanate of Sulu and North Borneo.

Malaysia is illegally occupying Sabah, Sabah a state, we will take it back," he said.

Kiram said he was appalled to see television images of Filipino servants and children being mistreated by their employers in Sabah. Tens of thousands of Filipinos and have sent home from there since 2000.

"The Malaysians have no authority to expel Filipinos from Sabah to, because the territory belongs to us," he said, adding that he would realize the help of the Philippine government in bringing his case to the International Court of Justice.

Kiram, 56, is only now second-ing to the throne after his father. Two years after his father's death, in cause of confusion over succession rules. The last sultan of Sulu left about 70 families to here.

Kiram said Malaysia helped Muslim rebels fight Manila in the 1970s, providing the separatists with sanctuary, training bases, weapons and moral support. He said he knows about Malaysian role in the rebellion because he was a former guerrilla leader himself.

Kiram said Malaysia recently changed its strategy and agreed to broker peace negotiations between the Philippine government and the Muslim rebels until to protect its claim on Sabah.

The dispute over Sabah is among long-standing irritants in the ties between the two Southeast Asian nations, but it was placed on the backburner as trade and investment links grew in the early 1990s.

The Sultanate of Sulu obtained Sabah from the Sultanate of Brunei as a gift for helping put down a rebellion on Brunei's island. The British leased Sabah and transferred control of the territory to Malaysia when it formed World War II.

But years after Sabah's became part of Malaysia, Manila Lampung continued to pay annual rent of 5,300 ringgit ($1,243) to the heirs of the sultan of Sulu. Reuters

Cell phone 'spam' to be probed

HONOLULU, "spam" is not only luncheon meat but also the advertisements that find their way into one's e-mail and, lately, one's cellphone.

But while they are "biowalls" to block spam from one's computer, nothing can stop the pesky messages from invading a mobile phone.

Officials of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) told the Senate committee on illegal drugs and public order on Friday that it was looking into the problem [illegible] spam through cell phones.

NTC Commissioner Ronald Solis told the committee the agency had formed a technical working group "to see how best to address these unsolicited ads."

Solis said the NTC has invited representatives of mobile companies to participate in the investigation. Christina O. Arroyo-Salazar

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2000

RP's only world-class special ice skater

from page A1

competitions because of his skills despite his condition, Bones noted.

The equipment is well-deserved.

His hometown development started by coincidentally, Jomard could not walk or talk until he was 4 years old. He was unable to play or bond himself, so was given to the toilet alone. His mother Elena had to carry him everywhere.

"The doctor told me he would not live long, and I was ready for that," Elena said. "But I also prepared myself to accept whatever to remain because of his survival."

Jomard was born two months premature, small enough to fit in a palm, and was immediately rushed to Intensive Care Unit (ICU) for incubation.

Elena recalled that she had not immediately informed her husband, Jose, a mariner, of the child's condition, till she sent in a telegraph note. "I love birth, baby boy, alive. Congrats."

When finally she gathered the courage to tell all, Jose was sympathetic. Until now, Elena said, it is Jomard's special needs that keep her husband working. Raising their son is "financially challenging," according to her. But the bigger requirements have been "a strong faith, a hard heart and endless tears."

Elena quit her job and learned as much as she could about Jomard's afflictions. She and her husband also dropped their desire to have two more children in their endeavor at the boy.

To get Jomard socialized, Elena tried all kinds of tricks. Sometimes, she would hatch cloth around the boy's midriff and push him to a high point or to herself to pull him up. Even right, the youngest Jomard's limbs with constant oil, which she described as flexible. She does this up to now.

"I can't tell you enough how hard it was for me," Elena recalled. "Sometimes, I cried or I tried again and again, day and night, to teach him to walk, nutrition nurses. He would always fall down."

But she never came close to giving up. She brought him to beaches in Iloilo and Cavite because she knew that sand was good for the muscles. Besides, Jomard loved the outdoors.

Even when he had grown more than half his size, she would carry him to the bus stop when they went to the mall, where he would watch other kids play. Painfully shy because of his disabilities, she boy did not complain.

Elena recounted: "The mall police let us march-out the mall as we wherever Jomard and I were out. But I always told her never to fear, hope that nothing was impossible with God."

Unexpected results

She enrolled in special education classes so she could better understand and teach her son. She ended up with a master's degree in SPED (Special Education).

"All I really asked of the Lord at the start was for Jomard to be able to stand up. That would have been enough for me," Elena said. His gift much more than she has gained her.

When Jomard was 5 years old, he managed to stand up and hobbled (three) steps to greet Elena at the door. She had just come home from work. She was stunned. It was a moment of happiness and hope.

Three sons later, Jomard was walking much better and talking coherently. He finished a SPED school near their home in Las Piñas, where he eventually finished high school. Then he and 12 other became his student's first batch of students in a basic computer course for special children at STI in Las Piñas City. He graduated in 2002.

Jomard's interest in ice skating was sparked by frequent visits to Old Greenhill. Watching other children at the sport, he often begged his parents to allow him to try. When he was 16, they finally gave in and enrolled him for one-on-one sessions.

The best part of the new interest was that Jomard acquired self-confidence, Elena said. "Gone, quiet and no skating as his only hobbies, he now is home to share. It's the highlight of his day."

Jomard's coach agreed. From the very start, Bones said, the boy's determination made him stand out from the other children in training. He never complained. When he fell, he would never cry it hurt, even if you saw it on his face. He would simply get up and try again."

Beyond his level

The discipline and tenacity paid off. After four years of practice, 300 picked Jomard to join the team that would compete in Skate Asia 2002 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Bones recalled: "Everybody was silent while he performed. They had learned that he was special, and so they watched closely. When he finished, they gave him a standing ovation." The team bagged second place.

As the Philippines' only world-class special ice skater, Bones said, Jomard deserves all the support the government can give.

The boy's expenses for the trip to Blaine, Minnesota, in August were shouldered by his parents. Jose mailed home nearly a third of their resources and had to scrounge around for more, just to send Jomard to the event organized by the Ice Skating Institute of America.

Now the talented special athlete is training for the next world championships in Los Angeles next year. According to Bones, Jomard is in the freestyle 2-level, and currently performing his spin, jump and sideways.

"He's also keen on the axel," Bones said. "This means he is doing things beyond his current level. In the future...who knows?...he might soon be qualified to reach the country's first batch of special ice skaters."

For a world champ who started off on little faith, this is not an unlikely next step.

Correction

In THE BUSINESS section of the Oct. 1 issue, Victor Ajeenin's column "Cash-Taker" on Page B1 reminded that Felipe Alfonso was a recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay award. It was the Asian Institute of Management which won the Ramon Magsaysay Award for International Understanding in 1995. Alfonso was then the AIM president.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for corrections of factual errors to writing to them 12/F, the Philippine Daily Inquirer Old Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Maniquis Boulevard, Makati City, fax no. 897-2474, e-mail address pbn@inquirer.com.ph and marked it urgent or rush, pls.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Joel Rocamora, readers' advocate, the same address and fax number as those of the city editor, and e-mail address joelr@inquirer.com.ph.

SPORTS

A DRIVING Jason Ahuja is bound for Olivo Barcelo's bar game last night.

Telan powers TNT to victory

By Jane Navarro

MAKE Telan exactly plays second fiddle to Asi Taulava. Last night, it was him time-to-shine.

Telan bagged in 18 points in the final 3:02 giving Talk 'N Text a huge 88-to-a-97-89 victory over San Miguel Beer in the start of the Phil-Cess Matador Philippine Cup before a silent crowd at the Araneta Coliseum.

"It was Mark's game. I knew to credit him for getting us a big lift tonight. I hope he keeps on playing that way," said Talk 'N Text coach Joel Banal, after the Phone Pals had rallied back from a 9-point deficit.

As Taulava often used the marginal frontliners down the stretch but it was Telan who saved the way for the fiery winging by the Phone Pals.

"Telan opened the final period with a three-pointer and dumbed seven points in a crucial run that had the Phone Pals leaving the tables on the freezers.

Telan finished with 20 points.

Rookie Rafael Yael A Bell also in the game by scoring 17 points, along with Dondon Hontiveros, while Hontiveros chipped in 14 points and grabbed 12 rebounds.

Chris Tordis earned the distinction of shooting the first basket of the season, a three-pointer from left field that was tracked off the freezer's evening run-up in the first quarter.

Taulava and Willie Miller finally let their strides and Jerwin Gaging's hook-to-back tipin broke the momentum of the freezers.

Telan and Bong Ravena countered the onslaught in the paramount, pushing the Phone Pals ahead, 32-29, before Talk 3 midfielder Jeff brought the freezers back into the fight.

Gilford led 12 points, including two three-point plays and a key dump in the minute open midway in the second quarter that tracked

TELAN on A2

Mark sews up Ukraine title

Standings: Vis—46 M Fesgas (M) 7.5—45 J. Arnidon Pinoso, BA. Dublin (Pinoso) 6.5—45 S. Jernigan (Tennessee) 4.5—44 A. Lomelo (Pinoso), M. L. Hernia (Ukraine, 45) P. (Pinoso) (Pinoso) 3.5—Wade Pinoso, 3.5—Nelson Pinoso, M. A. Zero (Ukraine, 3.5—44 A. Mirror (Pinoso) 3.5—45) Tyler Hernia, 3.5 Dublin (Ukraine).

FLIPPED Grandmaster-elect Mark Paragua stunned former Soviet Union champion Gilfi Gimbach Nizhnie in the 32th and pocket mate round Saturday to clinch the third leg of the shared Tournament Magic 4 Games, Ukraine.

MARK on A2

Telan powers . . .

SOLOIST Honorary Tin Binkin performs during the PBA opening rites.

COMMISSIONER Abet Eala makes the toss for the jumpball between SMB's Chrisan Palos (left) and TNT's Asi Taulava. Behind Eala, at left, is game performer Rogelio Pelingon.

Filipina booters trip Singapore

CEBU – Edna Aguinaldo cut loose to score the clincher in the second half as the Philippines nipped Singapore, 2-1, Saturday night to advance to the Asean Football Federation (AFF) Women's Championships Pre-Qualifiers Grp. Veterans.

The 23-year-old sportswear team (with the record after Singapore had tied the match, 1-1, at the half).

The victory handed the RP women's record at 1-1-1 following their 1-0 defeat to tournament Friday.

Clarissa Lazaro, the youngest member of the team at 18, put the RP women ahead in the eighth minute.

The Filipinas were still playing the better outscore at presstime.

To qualify for the semifinals, the Filipinas must beat Vietnam and hope that the Indonesians lose or draw with Singapore.

In Group A members Friday, Vietnam battled Southeast Asian Games gold medalist Thailand to a scoreless 0-0 draw and Myanmar routed Brunei, 17-0.

From page A-1

the Phone Pals' advantage and moved the Brothers ahead, 35-31.

But Timzy de Ocampo scored on a pair of putbacks, allowing the Phone Pals to take a 37-35 edge going into the final half.

The colorful opening rites lasted two hours with Ariel's songfest, Regine Velasquez, easily stealing the show.

Back one Bambee also performed while the crowd was treated to a glittering array of names led by veteran model Gerly Earbito of San Miguel Beer, Binibini Cassiopeia of Barangay Dasmariñas and Gwen Gabo's leggy Lovers.

"For the 30th year of the PBA, we are dedicated to pursuing a dream that will connect the team while RP basketball soars to the Olympics," said PBA chief Emilio Ilarmendo during the opening ceremonies.

The tournament will serve as the feeder for the creation of a national pool that will take part not only in the Asian Games but in The ABC, where 2007 action will be the qualifying event for the 2008 Olympics.

Tabulations
Box Score

BOY'S GLORY YEAR. At race (second from left, kneeling) with the other members of the Manila Model Eleven is none but now the 1971 Manila Industrial and Commercial Athletic Association (Micaa) championship. Kneeling (from left), Igde Sison, Arazas, Roberto Salonga, Francis Nessi, Lawrence Mercer, Jimbo Salvador. Back row (same order), Ruben Ignacio, Nanoe Lacsado, Jimmy Mariano, Bob Presby, Alberto "Bigboy" Bayonas, Alfonso Marquez. Not in the picture, Orly Ramos.

Caging icon Boy Arazas dies at 66

BASKETBALL international Eugenio "Boy" Arazas, noted for both his great skills and toughness, died on Saturday. He was 66.

A mainstay of the Manuel Roxas Architects in the height of their fabled rivalry with the Ysa Painters, Arazas was a member of the Philippine team which last won the Asian Games gold medal in 1962.

He was also in the national team, to the 1964 Tokyo Olympics but was rejected in the Tokkotsusa examinations and the 1962 World Basketball Championships in Manila.

Arazas, who later also played for Mondeo, is survived by wife Tessie and children Arjay and Margot.

He had been wheelchair-bound following a stroke; later suffered from pneumonia, and confined at the Sacred Heart Hospital in Malolos, Bulacan, where he succumbed.

His remains lie in state at the Aquino Funeral Home on Raymundo Street, Pasig City.

Interment will be announced later.

La Salle-FEU clash an anti-depressant

BARE EYE

Ricardo Trimiño

LAST Thursday's monumental UAAP men's basketball championship game ought to have a special tag.

It has been something like the Thrilla in Manila.

Two Ignatians had tagged it to look either ways.

But it was not only Ignatius, just more else which ultimately defined the event.

It was as tragic, it gripped and sent all of us basketball fanatics deep within an instant.

It was a pulsating theater.

It was a knockout thrill.

It is easy also for me to call the La Salle-FEU game on Thursday a demon's dream.

You wonder why?

Any coder or sanction president, like Alabang Hotels Municipal Arrieta who have tough, terrible times, like what we all have been, would have offered that great, unforgettable theater on scattered table.

It was a show that momentarily lifted and refreshed.

In fact, with all the hard times, the unsolved aches pose citizens suffer here, the UAAP men's basketball championship stands saved and sanctioned.

In point, the game continued to be the topic of the town the morning after.

It was major stuff in both tabloids and broadsheets.

Over the weekend, it was still being talked about practically in all opening corners here: dessert.

Of course, the effects, somewhat hallucinatory, would not last.

Soon enough, everybody has to again learn to live a low-keyed, regular, prosaic existence.

Everybody again has to face up to endless miseries, soaring prices of practically everything, topped by corruption, corruption and lying, just as there is a still galloping graft.

But it would not be easy to forget how the men's championship game surprised original billing.

Maybe it was pure coincidence that the UAAP cage crown was contested on the eve of the anniversary of the Thrilla in Manila.

But as the title game was also held in the Araneta Coliseum, where Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier fought in an all-time classic 29 years ago last Friday, it was enough to send a fire in their cunning hearts with their adjectives.

So, there was no keenness to a clash of heavenly bodies as when Ali, on the verge of falling, crashed Frazier for a TKO in the 14th.

The national thrill that followed La Salle's outlasts of the UAAP crown may not be as sweeping as Manny Pacquiao's demolition of pound-for-pound boxing great Marco Antonio Barrera in Las Vegas.

But, at least, the La Salle championship was still home to its exuberant among the most memorable mass events in RP staging.

Winning coach Franz Pumaren is sure to boost himself to his latest achievement.

But, although it's still nobody remember a second-placer, gallant FEU, the story is helped almost two La Salle might, should take its part of UAAP lore.

Yes, there were solid names: NBA loyalty Jayson Castro, rookie Jeric Teng.

But a grand star the La Salle championship three could not be in a debate on what ultimately decided the caliber match.

Who if the lord-giving triple by JV Casio in the dying seconds?

Or Mayby Dennis Miranda's scary nine-on-a layup, after he fired to finish when he was fully unnerved, already on five personal fouls?

Then what if Mac Cardenas did not grab, up high to beat the crucial last rebound, before sinking the subsequent free throw?

Most have painfully lost in the euphoria was the mighty pushback by a lanky, unassuming rookie with the last name of Mbandeville.

The bronze goal had had a stranding effect on La Salle, shattered unshakable by solid, game-long defense, when the decision went fully under siege.

That's about all. Thanks and congrats.

For the final word, though, the overall texture of the championship game failed to lend promise of future international results for the country.

Despite the thrill, the deafening hysteria, the fans are could say is that title game was "great collegiate basketball."

The over-feel is not meant to be subjective.

(SINGAPORE, 1968): Peter Hermann Pedersen of PPG industries in Singapore, who said the last of the hotel declaration, after his handling was none-but last seconds by two men on a motorbike during a stop-over in Batang, Malaysia. "I didn't know how I could go back to my office in Singapore the next day. I thought of phoning a friend to BEA counterpart (Corporation) Hilary Arroyo. I was thrown to go to Kuala Lumpur to rehabilitate my vocal chords – until I did. I arrived in Singapore a little late, but very happy to realize that there are kind countrymen ready to sympathize. I wish to thank the SQ stations officials – Steven Chow, Jerry and Conrad Angeles, Antonio and Concepcion Secretary Shirley Reyes, and of course, Congressman Arroyo, whom I have not met.")

Tanguilig shines; RP still 4th

THE EXPOSITOR Games Filipino Trade Team kept the pressure on third-running Hong Kong in the overall women wrestling after Wilson Tanguilig placed fourth in the 48-kilogram 50th stage of the FIA Asian Tour of Indonesian cycling circuit on Yogyakarta to Madiun last day.

The 2004 Tour Filipino champion was in the 24-man first group that clocked four hours and 17 minutes at the end of the 161.5-kilometer Jogyacarta 1 947 Madiun Tour champion Hong Kong pool Hong Kong.

Lloyd Reuters finished 18th in 4:09:40, but Albert Ramos became the first Filipino casualty as he sustained injuries after a spill at the 140-km mark and was forced to drop out of the race.

Thanks to Tanguilig and Reyuters, the Filipinos remained fourth overall after the legs of the 1,052-km lakeline with a cumulative time of 61:31:32. They were a minute behind Hong Kong (61:34:13) with four laps to go. Gilbert Abdik Perth Mills (62:13:33) and Felipon Jeanne Mire (62:38:19) kept the 1-2 spots, respectively.

Mark sews up Ukraine title

To see page B2

The 20-year-old Filipino's was with the black pieces against the veteran Ivanuta, one of the strongest players of the generation, pushed her to 56 to 40 opponent's 30 points. Paragon scored 22-points four of his losses in six. Ivanuta (the Dmitry Andreikin and Alexander Onishko).

Paragon's second victory in Ukraine in less than a month underlines his superb form before his next stint 36th World Chess Olympiad slated on Oct. 14-31 in Majorca, Spain.

"I intend to enter order to get a shot at the 2600 rating," he said. Manlio Bernardino, Contributor

Finex President's Cup tees off tomorrow

THE FIRST Finex President's Cup golf tournament will be held tomorrow at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. Tee-off is from 6:30 a.m.

Strike Platinum and Filipinas Gold are event sponsors, while host sponsors are McDonald's, Club Manila Inn, 2106 Concern Builders, Inc., 11 Delight Pilak, Inc. and Cargo Aces. The tournament serves as the second leg of the Asian Golf Tour.

Japan gives local cops ₱49M to boost mobility

THE JAPANESE government has approved the grant of ¥46-million in official development assistance (ODA) to the Southern Police District to help boost its capability to curb crime and thwart terrorist attacks.

Japanese Ambassador to Manila Bujito Yakuno informed Presidential Secretary Ronaldo Puno during talks about the grant, Japanese Embassy officials said in a statement.

The ODA, under the non-project grant instrument, would enable the police district to acquire 39 utility vehicles, build a 84-station motorpool and conduct a driver-proficiency course for 200 police officers, the officials said.

"With 61 percent of JPDA police-community pressures having no organic vehicles at all, the project is expected to be a great boost to JPDA response time, preventive maintenance capability and visibility," they said.

The JPDA, which covers the cities of Makati, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, and Muntinlupa and the municipalities of Taguig and Pateros, had asked assistance from the Japanese government to support in its plan to upgrade its mobility.

It operates mainly in the country's premier commercial and business district which hosts several foreign embassies and consulates and the official residences of ambassadors, as well as three million local residents.

[illegible]

Smelly Rugby seen as deterrent

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency wants the makers of Rugby to make the glue smell "like hell" so that street children would be discouraged from sniffing it.

"If chemical engineers can do it so that carbon[illegible] (LPG), which is essentially an odorless chemical, they can also do it to counteract excesses," PDEA Undersecretary and Director General Anselmo Avenido Jr. said over the weekend.

The aromatic smell of Rugby is the primary reason for its popularity as a substance abused, paving indigent children. If the contact cement were reformulated to emit a smell, this would deter dependents from using it, he said.

Rugby contains toluene, a controlled substance which is used in the manufacture of clothe [illegible] Inhaling it produces a "high" similar to the effect of taking drugs. Because it is addictive, its prolonged use can damage the lungs and brain leading to an early death.

Contact cement is affordable and small, is available in hardware stores and can be bought by anyone regardless of age.

Rugby is not covered by Republic act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs act of 2002, so the PDEA is powerless to stop those who sell and abuse the substance. — Ruben F. Flores

Probe Chinese behind casino operations, BI urged

A CONGRESSMAN yesterday urged the Bureau of Immigration to investigate a group of Chinese nationals the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) allowed to operate the Manila Marina Casino and Hotel in Malate, Manila.

Rep. Catalino Figueroa (Lakas, Marawi-Iranon) said the casino group was set to expand its gambling operations in the vicinity with the planned opening of another casino in the land of Chinatown.

"The BI has to determine whether or not these foreigners have valid working permits and if the nature of their business is legal and consistent to a legitimate tourism," Figueroa said.

Figueroa identified the Chinese nationals as Jack Lim, also known as Lin Wei Cheng; Jack Lam, Jessie Chua and Jenny Fong.

In a privilege speech in September, Figueroa said the Chinese nationals had claimed to be financiers of Macau casino magnate Stanley Ho.

But Figueroa said Ho's camp had denied any links with the Chinese nationals. "Mr. stuff got the information... that Mr. Ho had not solicited their services to set up his businesses in the Philippines," Figueroa said.

"It seems that Lin, Lam and Chua are using Mr. Ho's name to gain influence in their dealings here," Figueroa said. "If this is true, then all the more reason we should stop the casino hole."

Figueroa said Lin's group quietly opened the Silverstar Marina Casino and Hotel for business with the approval of Pagcor.

Figueroa questioned the legality of the move, saying only Congress and not Pagcor could grant a franchise for casino operations.

Figueroa said Lin's group also planned to open a casino in the old Jai-alai Building in Binondo, Manila. The casino will have at least 175 slot machines.

But the planned casino is being opposed by prominent Chinese-Filipino businessmen in Binondo.

Figueroa said some of his colleagues in the House supported his move to investigate Lin's group and their local partners.

Jack Lin on Monday Ho or any other foreign interest created rule on Pagcor's franchise. They have to get their own franchise from Congress," Figueroa said.

Figueroa also said another casino was set to open soon under the control of Hyatt Hotels corporation in Manila Bay. — Gerilyn Nakpil

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The WORLD

Cito Lorenzo B. Gozo

US warplanes pound Iraqi rebel enclave for 3rd time

FALLUJAH, Iraq—US warplanes pounded the Iraqi insurgent-held town of Fallujah on Sunday for a third time in just over 24 hours in an ongoing push to wrest for good from rebel hands ahead of January elections.

The pre-dawn strike took place just hours after US and Iraqi officials said Samarra, another rebel-wrested city, was largely under control after one of their largest post-war military offensives in the country.

Despite such attempts to crush the insurgency, militant groups continued holding scores of foreigners hostage, including a Jordanian, two French journalists and a British engineer who have all been threatened with death.

A senior US military official, however, warned that the militants' death vanities, such as a series of car bombings last week that killed scores of children, had the potential to backfire by uniting world opinion against them.

The members of Fallujah were numbering again after US warplanes bombed a building where the military said terrorist 10 and 20 insurgents suspected of links with Iraq's most wanted man Abu Musab al-Zarqawi had been chilling overnight.

"A large number of enemy fighters are presumed killed," the army said, without giving an exact toll.

The latest air strike followed two earlier ones around the flash Sunni rebel stronghold that left dozens dead.

In the latest attack, the US military said special operations forces were taken to remove an civilians from the area.

Speaking at City Hall, Maqdi said the mission was the most successful to date, and hinted at further action to root out the rebels.

Asked if Fallujah would be next on the list, the minister said: "I would like to say today rather than tomorrow ... we would be able to do that.

"Fallujah has to come back to Iraq ... we want all Iraqis to put Iraqis in the shortjacks."

But a leading Sunni Muslim religious group questioned the legality of using brute force to achieve democratic goals.

"Resorting to iron and fire to impose the decisions or a flawed merchant," the Committee of Muslim Scholars said. AFP

A US soldier on patrol in Samarra. O.K.T. AP

Indon treats fans to Asian F3 victory

SEPANG, Indonesia—Saying he didn't want to look stupid before his country-men, Indonesian Ananda Mikola sped off to an overwhelming victory in Race 7 of the Petronas Sintico Asian Formula 3 Grand Prix Sunday at the Sepang International Circuit here.

The 18-year-old, who got off to a flying start at the head of the grid, set a fastest lap time of 1:26.194 in lap 3 aboard the car new to him for last year's champion, Fitpol Motor, of the Philippines.

Sharing the limelight was Filipino Enzo Pinto of Citilexus Jones Motorsport who finished first in the preceding class for Formula 3 Asian Trophy in 1998 cc riders.

A day after taking pole in the 12-lap race, Mikola, the 26-year-old veteran of the tough Gel sport racing circuit, literally left any opposition before a big crowd that had come to see their young hero dominate an international field that included all six Filipino drivers.

Mikola negotiated the 4.2-km track in 17 minutes 21.415 seconds, turning what was supposed to be a three-or-so-round feature with Australian Christian Jones and Irish Alex O'Brien into a big race.

"If I lose, the people would understand I had a mechanical engine trouble or else like, 'There'd think he regret,' said Mikola, riding for Petronas Pantera Kinetic PS.

He earned 20 points and will start on pole position in Race 8 later in the day.

O'Brien, who started third on the grid, jockeyed for position with Jones and Manoa just after the green light and managed to secure second as the field quickly ran the 1.1-km straightaway in front of the race grandstands for the first time, a position he maintained for the next 11 laps.

O'Brien, racing for Shell Helix-Team Lotus, collected 15 points and short post frames in the overall standings going into Race 8.

After battling through a blown engine and oil leak in practice, Mikola clocked a 10:11.277, good for satisfactory overall, behind fifth placer Enzo Pinto of Fujitsu Ten Toyota Team Tom's, who raised 10:07.909, and fourth placer Manoa Jones, who clocked 10:46.230 using a car lent to him by Jaya Motors.

Promoters class leader Tyson Sy of Castrol Team Redd Mitsuoka was one of contenders the fifth lap.

DAZZO Pinto (center) celebrates his victory in the Petronas Class with compatriot Enzo Pastor (left) racing for Fujitsu Ten Toyota Team Tom's, and third placer Kenko Miura of Japan.

Briones, Torres defend Autocross crowns

MIKEE BRIONES and Abi Torres put their bronze, Experienced and Pro titles on the line in the second Clutch tournament Invitational slated Oct. 9 at the Open Parking lot 3 of the SM City North Edsa.

Drivers from Nueva Ecija, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Bulacan, Pampanga and Metro Manila will provide the challenge in the event backed by Castrol Philippines, SM Supermalls, SM City North Edsa, The Fourth Rider Auto Extreme Air Philippines, Top 40 Shirts and Rock'Quarter Armour.

In all, 119 drivers will be contested in the main event.

Joey Samaniel, Ricky Sagunton, Arjay Hendrix, Noel Rivera, Dennis Dungjohn, Jonathan Hungerjan, Jhack de Leon, Gene Reyes and Dr. Preston Mendiola are among the top drivers in the three classes already.

Driver registration begins at 8 a.m. with the race proper starting at 9 a.m.

Gutierrez wins by 1; Handog scores rout

By Manong R. Castillo

LALABAN, Batangas—Rj Gutierrez and Cabrera Manalig vaulted in astounding rounds to outclass the second and third winners in five divisions in the 2004 Rosemary Araneta Golf Season's Colesium leg.

Gutierrez fired a six-over 70 and wound up with a 284 total, 1.0 over at the tough championship layout that played longer because of strong tailwinds.

That output was enough to hold off Matthew Mainoza, who engaged Gutierrez in an interesting duel. Mainoza matched that 70 and lost the boyz Class Amble by one shot.

The 16-year-old Manalig fired a 79 and won the girls' Class A by 20 shots as classmate Jessica Bonilao shot Par finished with a 87.

Manalig was a shot in the prestigious Asian Junior Masters in Thailand in December.

Debbie-ole Silkwood grab shots with an 82 (10T). 2D strokes ahead of Princess Rosvil, were to 405 Runners rallied with a 79 to beat Mirah anthony Sandoval by 1 shot, second ahead of runners, who struggled with 84.

The Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines will be scoring teams in three international tournaments, including the Nomura-Singapore Junior Open, next month and the Malaysian Schoolboys in October.

The champions in the Colesium leg will enter actions this weekend at Silverwood Hills Golf and Country Club in Alfonso time who will be eligible for the three tournaments.

Pradeep Sooty won girls' Class C with her 75 (10W), while Abigail Arevalo cam stroke with the Class B plum after a 44 (5th). Miguel Arevalo won boys' Class C after a 90 for 184.

Shin, Servida, Pizarro shine in Riviera golf

YOUNG Christoph Shin and Chito Servida were in similar fashion to share the spotlight in the third Riviera Anatome Golf Championship of Riviera's Longer course in Silang, Cavite, last weekend.

Shin, 2nd with four others after 18 holes, came through with a 77 on the second day and came away with a two-stroke victory over Joe Arias and Teody Pascual in Class A of the tourney sponsored by Prospecto and UBE. Arias and Pascual both wound up with 79 and finished with identical 306, with the former shooting an insurance after the countback.

Servida finished the field in Class B by matching the 84 for a 171 total, four shots up on Ding Rodrigo, who had a 173 after a 94. Dimitri Gordon finished third with a 177 after a 93.

In senior play, Danny Pizarro made an 87 and topped Felipe Arabit, 88, in the countback for the title. Both finished with 175, while Joey Bonifacio rounded out third with a 174 after an 86.

Shin, Servida and Bizarro thus joined Antonio Macaraeg and Bobby Celestino in the winners' podium during the first Prospecto affair.

Macaraeg, a former national champion, dominated the Champ-senday Event, with a 203 and a six-stroke victory over Joe Bautista.

Celebrities edged Eric Gelo in the Champ-senday B division, shooting a 77 and edging by two strokes.

Vigan serves up NL Milo Junior Cup tennis finals

PLAYERS from the northern provinces take the spotlight when the 10-and-U Lacoste regional finals of the 2004 Milo Junior Tennis Cup unfolds on Oct. 16 at the Vigan Tennis Club courts.

Featured classic in the tournament organized by the Children's Tennis Workshop and backed by sole dist. Alkayate Addison and Tigre Mayor Bedjo Medina are the boys' and girls' 10-under and 12-under singles and doubles 10-under group.

The first age-group champions in Vigan will vie in the Metrorail Finals in November against the qualifiers from Isabela Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao tournament hosts in the 2004 Milo-pics Junior Tennis Circuit coming in December.

Today's TV Schedule - Monday, October 4, 2004

News Channel	ABS-CBN 2	ABS 3	ABC 5	GMA 7	Studio 23	RJTV
5:00 pm	Sun Shadows	Cyborg Revolution	Cowboy Hillbilly	Bodyguardian	Tabo 5	ABC Top Story
5:30 pm	Malayan Ka	Legend of Brian vs Deadly 5's	Home Is Arabic		Hip Hip	
6:00 pm	Wil Natural	Tactics	Ill Clan		Batman Animated	Bisaya Talk
6:30 pm	TV Patrol			Entertainment Tonight	Batman Beyond Epic	
7:00 pm						
	TV Patrol	Friends	Extra Challenge	Juan vs Jose	Batman Beyond	DYW ABC News
7:30 pm	Kaya Kaibigan	Ang Sagot Nasa	Mutants		Mortal Kombat Movie	
8:00 pm	Mystica			TV World Today	Joke 2 U	DYW ABC News
8:30 pm		Star Trader	Forever in My Heart			
9:00 pm	Krim		Mutants		Batman	Talk Back
9:30 pm	I Might Be Yes	Big News	Legal Eagle Jesse Hamilton			
10:00 pm	Da Vinci Mysteries	Mysteries		Entertainment Now	News Center	Tim Wood Tonight
10:30 pm		Mysteries		Ano Ka Ba Sis	World Wrap	Business Nights
11:00 pm			Boks	Extra Innings		Bisaya Talk
11:30 pm	Insider	Brian Wants Kisses	I Witness		Tonight Show	

Sharon vows to expand Gaza raid that killed 59

JERUSALEM—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon vowed Sunday to press ahead with a massive military operation in the Gaza Strip that has killed almost 60 people in five days.

"The operation is progressing in a calm, serious way. Our forces are acting professionally and efficiently. This is not a short operation. We should act for as long as the danger exists, be told Israeli radio.

Sharon said he had given the order to change the situation on the Gaza front, cited as the "security, first leadership and those who said there, stray will, their responsibility for making progress."

A total of 59 people have been killed since last Tuesday when the army launched its "Days of Repentance" operation—one of the deadliest since the start of the Palestinian uprising four years ago—in a bid to prevent rocket attacks by militants. AFP

Pope beatifies Habsburg ruler

VATICAN CITY—Pope John Paul II on Sunday beatified Blessed Austro-Hungarian emperor, Charles I, and a defiant stroke which vision enjoined Mel Gibson's endorsement for "The Passion of the Christ."

The movie brings the Habsburg emperor, who is remembered as known for embracing the pacifist and got during World War I, and tragic Anna Katherine Franchise one step from sainthood.

"I hope Emperor Charles will serve as an example, especially for those with political responsibilities in Europe today," the Pope said during an open-air ceremony in Saint Peter's Square that was attended by 30,000 worshippers, including around 1,000 members of the Habsburg dynasty.

The Pope also conferred the status of "blessed." The penultimate step to full sainthood, or two miracles, must be carried out before the person can be declared a saint.

EMPEROR Karl I in 1916.

Born in 1887, Charles succeeded his great-uncle Franz Joseph in 1916, following the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, which historians say was the spark that ignited World War I. He was made emperor in November 1916 and crowned apostolic King of Hungary one month later.

His official biography, published by the Vatican, says he was committed to peace and was the only political leader to support Pope Benedict XV's peace efforts.

But his beatification has caused controversy in Austria, where Charles I is remembered by many for ruining the war of unwanted gas during World War I and whose critics believe his elevation to be political to divert to the conservative right.

The Austrian press has redoubled not only the emperor's political record but the monarchy's allegedly profound to cover bootlicking. According to the Vatican, he earned a Brazilian turn of cocoon some after doctors had given up all hope for her.

Elizabeth was born into a farming community in 1774, joined a convent and became famous for feeding the stigmata—the wounds in hands and feet suffered by Christ during crucifixion—after being confined to bed with a long illness. She died at the age of 30.

She is revered in a million modern in the biography presided by the Vatican, which says "she was always willing to take on hard work and burdensome tasks."

The post Christina Brantmeier became an admirer and visited his tomb in Hungary. Her visit to the tomb is a book titled "The Painful Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ" which inspired the actor and director Mel Gibson to make his film. AFP

MUSLIM CONCERT
Malaysian Muslims perform during Part 3 show in Malaysia "Muslim Entertainment" concert in Kuala Lumpur Dec. 3. Malaysia's Muslim opposition, which says concerts encourage a hedonistic lifestyle, held one such in the weekend, aiming to make its party prosper image and lure youths who rejected it in a recent election. REUTERS

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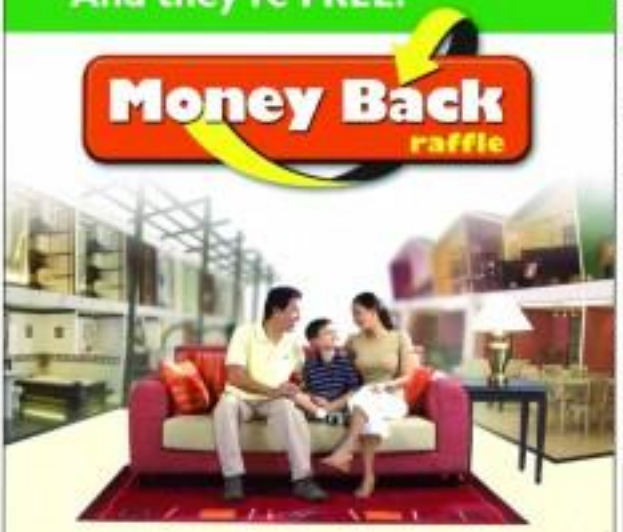

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WORLDBRIEFS

Sri Lanka peace bid suffers stillbirth

COLOMBO—Sri Lanka's federal bid to revive the peace process with Tiger rebels has suffered a stillbirth with the country's main opposition calling for a boycott of the new initiative, political sources said Sunday. President Chandrika Kumaratunga is due to launch a "Bahinna Interim Council for Peace and Reconciliation" on Monday. But parties holding the balance of power in parliament, who can make or break the initiative, will not attend. The main opposition United National Party (UNP) dismissed Kumaratunga's initiative and said the way to end the standoff is for the two sides to hold direct peace talks without preconditions with the Tigers. Corresponding the problems for the moment as it is unknown by Tiger president parliament the Tamil National Alliance, to have any meaningful impact on ensuring peace in Sri Lanka. AFP

Steam eruption shakes Mount St. Helens

SEATTLE, Washington—Hot volcano Mount St. Helens roared to life Friday morning, sending a plume of steam and ash into the sky and causing fears of a new large eruption. After letting off steam from its lava cap in a spectacular natural display, the rumblings stopped and the huge crater quickly disappeared. But the burst of activity sent scientists scrambling to establish whether the volcano, which killed 57 people when it erupted dramatically 24 years ago, was building another monument to Washington's skies. AFP

Call him Dr. Yudhoyono

JAKARTA, Indonesia—For current and late "Mr President" get ready to add Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. While waiting to become Indonesia's next leader, his former general submitted his doctoral thesis on the country's political economy for scrutiny and accreditation—subjects that could not be more important for when he takes office on Oct. 20. Yudhoyono will succeed the world's fourth most populous nation and his doctorate for Ohio State will ease concerns at the presidential Bogor Institute of Agriculture where his was picked by three faculty. Reuters

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, October 4, 2004
27th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Bar 1:15-22
Psalm: Ps 69:14, 30-31, 33-37
Gospel: Lk 10:25-37

A teacher of the Law came and began putting Jesus to the test. And he said, "Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus replied, "What is written in the Scriptures? How do you understand it?" The man answered, "It is written: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind; and you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus replied, "What a good answer! Do this and you will live." But the man wanted to keep on questioning Jesus, so he replied, "Who is my neighbor?"

Jesus then said, "There was a man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, beat him and went off leaving him half dead.

"It happened that a priest was going along that road and saw the man, but passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite saw the man and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, too, was going that way, and when he saw the man, he took pity on him. He went over to him, bandaged his wounds with oil and wine, and wrapped them with bandages. Then he put him on his own animal and brought him to an inn where he took care of him.

"The next day he had to set off, but he gave two silver coins to the innkeeper and told him, 'Take care of him and whatever you spend on him, I will repay when I come back.'"

Jesus then asked, "Which of these three, do you think, made himself neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The teacher of the Law answered, "The one who had mercy on him." And Jesus said, "Go then and do the same."

Commentary

In the days of Antonio Bruno I can't imagine that you as a seminarian in grade school, unless you're called "Mr. Encyclopedia" or "The Brother of the Pope" or "The Boy Who Knows Everything." Would Antonio Bruno hesitate to raise his hand because he's a higher level of self-doubt? Rather unintended. "The Wise Spirit" follows that they have completed the load by their own false lights, and are hurry up on the source of their own self-love and self-centeredness. Then we simply spin ourselves up to a false perception of their own and impose our own self-delusions on the Lord. That sap that we suppose has a balanced beyond disaster. But can he see what is good for ourselves considers that he has advanced beyond anything, because think as unpretentious it may seem, as modest as a good. He may have some strength and blessing, so it seems, pleasant way of prayer, but that gives gift to that and as real to him as what you have. He will consider himself superior to everything, superior to nothing.

But genuine illumination, he says, "makes us with desire and well-being, the gift of wisdom and knowledge." The brightest and purest light shed on us by the greatness of God. The more close by do we see our own darkness and nothingness. At face this is how we may discern the genuineness of this illumination, for it is my advice God always may not only bring, not through images, not through our faculties, but to the very depths of our souls."

We cannot live or serve our neighbor from any other place. This is one undeniable sign of and its hidden strengths.

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Buenavista reigns

Long-distance ace is adidas king of the road

BUENAVISTA. Fire among the stars.

THERE'S no clawing down the country's long distance running king.

Olympian mainstayer Eduardo Buenavista proved this yesterday when he easily ruled yesterday's 8th adidas King of the Road race at the adidas Sports Kamp in Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

The 4-foot-11 Buenavista, who won 42nd among 61 finishers in the recent Athens Olympics, clocked a personal best of 29 minutes and 23 seconds for 12.4-kilometer event.

National cyclister Julius Jurimoto came in second in 30:19 while marathon Milo Marathon champion Allan Isidoro settled for third in 31:05.

Bernardo Ocampo and Reynaldo Arceo-Perez placed fourth and fifth, respectively. Last year's adidas King of the Road Alex Quiazo placed 13th in 36:19.

"Dalisa Reyes was ahead in the first 2K and when I caught up with him, I went all the way," said Buenavista, who holds the Philippine record in the 5K, 10K and 42K events.

Buenavista's old 10K mark was 29:37 recorded during the Milo Marathon elimination run in 2002. His national 21K record in the feat stands 20:02.

Bernardito Manipol led all the way in the distaff side of the race co-presented by Globe Gremm and sponsored by Mc-Donald's, Sanders shoulder bag, adidas watches, Powerade, Mrs. Filmcal Water, adidas Pregnant, Pittsfield Enquire and Milo.

Manipol, also a national team member, timed 38:41 minutes.

Former Milo Marathon champion Lilabeth Mantes was second in 39:25, while last year's Queen of the Road Lina Verdejo clocked 39:33 for third.

Lize Delfin (39:50) and Elena Bisa (39:57) followed in that order.

Buenavista and Manipol pocketed P30,000 cash and P10,000 worth of gift certificate from Adidas. They will also represent the country in the International Cup of the Road next week in Korea.

Virtual stroll for Cover Girl in Grand Futurity

By Edwin Villanueva, Contributor

COVER Girl turned the Grand Futurity Stakes race in to a stroll at the Santa Ana Park yesterday.

The long mug jogging Jorge Magnodong seemingly had no trouble reining Kaiserwolf Obe simply jogged to victory. It's a good season-cap for her seven-year-old trainer Jordan Hernandez, after Cover Girl crossed to a five-length victory in the 1,000-meter b.g.

Knowing Cover Girl was a cut above her class other rivals, Hernandez allowed the Blossom Gallant Sidney filly to roam behind Panamoon in the early going before guiding her to the lead at the far turn.

She handed her nose closest Cover Girl in four straight victories since Aug. 7. All told, Cover Girl has sailed down 14 wins in 18 runs. Prior to yesterday's assignment, Cover Girl won in the Founders' Cup, Lakambini Stakes and topped a class division race.

Next up for Cover Girl, who won P550,000, in the much awaited 3-year-old Fillies sealed in the 7th Philippine Grand Championship bar on Oct. 17, also at Santa Ana, where she will be facing tougher opponents like Rindi, Cool Runnings and Concordia.

Cover Girl negotiated the race in 1:41. But, although her best time over the distance was 1:39 when she ruled the Cojuangco Cup last May 23.

Hector Land took runner-up honors, four lengths behind Cup fourth and last.

Earlier, Speed Machine rallied hard under Fernando Vasquez Jr. to nip Aizensoro by a head in the White Mile race. Showing her agent of Bulakeño owned by was for real, the favored Speed Machine charged down the wire mightily to undergo the victory in 1:42.

Biggest little race marks its first year

LUMBOCAN Cabanac never knew her father's woke to see the face of her young life. Nathalie Cardiel, in diapers, wondered the strength to finish few as he ran but a new pair of shoes.

Three and other front-running contenders make the first half-year of the Team Zest-O Pasubling Pinoy trully a fulfilling one for the race organizers.

The 12-year-old Cabanac and Cardiel classmates today's young students that Team Xenthpoint hopes to reach out to and draw toward the sport of running. And many of these kids from public elementary and high schools didn't even know they had what it takes to run a race until they actually did.

"We reach out to students, mostly those who can't afford to pay entry fees to join a race," said Robert Manning, head of the organizing local Francisco who thanked Team Xenthpoint-sponsor manager Ricky Yao for bankrolling the race, a cinch, 5-km run conducted by the Media Runners.

While the event also sentimentally thrilled legs featuring some of the country's top runners, the Team Zest-O Pasubling Pinoy also staged her own even more momentary runs when running is unheard of.

The Team Zest-O Pasubling went on for merit by Pagsin and ran for sour-to-Batangas, but it was the extras in between that allowed the race to establish its order in the running scene.

The Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City and the Philippine National Police Academy in Silang, Cavite, welcomed us as we exclusively fit in cadets.

And the way took up cause like the preservation of ecosystem in Pila, Laguna, and fund-raising for school activities.

It was a budget for Tanduay Sons Elementary School's Pinoying Pandacan-based volleyball team receiving running funds and acquiring equipment from the Philippine Sport's Commission during a race held in CP Hillman. It also pitched in for the 4-st. Ricardo Reyes National High School's athletic team in Tagaig.

"There are things that are much bigger than a race," Manning said.

SPORTSWATCH

One-on-one at Las Piñas

30 fights at Roligon today

INQUIRER

OPINION

No amnesty

IT seemed like Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez has put paid to the amnesty issue. "The cases against [the Magdalo marinoes] have been filed in court. They are already beyond the reach of the President," Gonzalez said last Friday. "There is no more course that I know of for us to drop or withdraw the cases."

But is amnesty beyond the reach of Congress? "The only possibility is to grant a general amnesty, but that is for Congress to decide and not for the President," Gonzalez explained.

EDITORIAL

This is the same task that Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, once the chief presidential legal counsel, outlined last Wednesday. He attributed to Executive Secretary Edmundo Ermita, a former defense secretary, the instruction given to defense and military officials "to discuss and study the mechanisms for amnesty because this may need the concurrence of Congress." But the leisurely approach seems to be more of Cruz's style.

To be sure, Cruz did not say outright that he preferred the grant of a general amnesty. All he said was that he wants the court-martial proceedings against the Magdalo marinoes speeded up.

Another lawyer in the Arroyo administration, however, floundered in the treacherous waters of policy pronouncements. Last Thursday, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye issued a statement that began with the promise of amnesty. "We adhere to the principle of reconciliation with justice and amnesty is one of the instruments of this policy that can be considered."

But a second release of his statement on the same day omitted the second, amnesty-as-an-instrument clause entirely. Bunye also tossed denials that the meeting that Ermita had called and that Cruz had described even discussed the possibility of amnesty in the first place.

"The subject of amnesty specifically [with regard] to the Magdalo officers was never taken up," Bunye told reporters.

Was he reading mixed signals? "We've been consistent," Bunye told reporters. "We're saying that the proceedings would have to be continued, would have to be terminated before we can talk about amnesty. Let's finish the proceedings first. Hearings first."

What does this all mean? We can be certain that the administration feels confident enough with its electoral mandate to re-imagine the whole Magdalo issue, to see it less as a sign of future restiveness in the military than as a symbol of a constitution past (but no longer extant). We can also be reasonably certain that, having taken new measure of the issue, the administration has fashioned a new policy: leniency.

The signals spelling out leniency are not mixed, but clear as crystal water. The secret negotiations with top executioners of the Magdalo leaders, the slyly worded apology of the junior officers who led the mutiny, President Macapagal-Arroyo's immediate decision to accept the apology, the flurry of news leaks about the possible grant of amnesty, the unchanging assumptions behind Bunye's many statements: all these point to a radical change in the way the administration now regards the Magdalo mutiny.

Should we be surprised that "mechanisms for amnesty" are under study? It is only logical, given the new policy. That the idea is being considered at all is already an unmistakable signal to those in the military who may still feel some sympathy for the marinoes.

But we can also be certain that, at least in this case, the administration has learned to lessen. It will not be seen as solely responsible for integrating the Magdalo marinoes back into the mainstream. It will not be perceived as pushing the amnesty agenda itself, which was what the first Bunye statement implied. It will work through and thus share responsibility with Congress.

In other words: Amnesty is in the cards, but someone else would have to deal from the deck.

It remains to be seen, however, whether the new policy of leniency (suspected in the case of the soldiers who were misled into joining the mutiny, subtle in the case of the mutiny leaders) will solve the real problem: bringing the boys back to the barracks. If leniency is not premised on true contrition, if it is not based on substantive confession, through the naming of the financiers and masterminds of the attempted coup, then we can be certain of one more thing: the new policy will fail.

Rivers and riverbanks as transport highways

(Continued from last Wednesday)

DO you realize that we have so many problems because our policies are copy-cats? We have monopolies and oligopolies where there should be free competition in the cement, oil, power, pharmaceutical and steel industries. And we have free enterprise where there should be government control in land transportation, especially in Metro Manila.

Take the matter of the streets of the metropolis because we fear, lack and abhor carrying a property line. We use as a yardstick, little considerably in the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board's decision not to give riders the right to ride in the middle lanes of the roads. Anybody can buy a vehicle, park it on the street and nobody gives a damn even if it contributes to traffic congestion. In Tokyo, you cannot buy a vehicle unless you can show a valid lot or a garage or parking slot. In New York, you cannot even check your car anywhere.

You can select your shares on individual basis, so occupy seats anytime and make them your home and even convert them into commercial establishments (e.g. billiard halls), and the government will even call the cat-catchers right at your service.

There are too many vehicles on the streets because foreign-owned cars and motorcycles assemblers pour thousands of units out as the streets every year for practically none to [illegible].

Too many vehicles and too few seems, that's the big problem.

Yet there are alternatives to roadways running on the land—but nobody sees them. In an archipelago, it is unbelievable that we chuck the Arroyo administration wants to phase out its Metro Manila, let us send effective mass transit systems to congest people.

And these three are the rivers and the sea. (The sea) to be our highways before we did to have only a few vehicles. It is no exaggeration that the Philippines, an archipelago surrounded by seas, pays so little attention to water and aquatic transportation. Even in the days of the Spanish galleons, commerce moved along the coasts and on the rivers on board barges, sailboats and bancas. Passenger liners of the Magsaysay Lines were operating along the Pasig River, but they did not become popular because there were too small and too slow. The rivers, and the passengers could smell the polluted waters and did not feel safe in them.

The Pasig River is still a good highway: it is still navigable to barges of all sizes and produces its own natural barges. Its valley not very far passenger boats and ferries again connecting Binondo to Intramuros and to Manila Bay. Its waters are not beset by the pollutants from the factories and ignored sewers of Laguna de Bay, thus adding two more rivers to Metro Manila. This will give current drainage to the low-lying districts and prevent floods. Right now, the best [illegible] are just the backyards of the factories and [illegible] open cesspools.

In Sydney, Australia, the banks of the river, from downtown Sydney to the sea, are lined with [illegible] restaurants. The ambiance can be found almost everywhere.

And there are boats coming from downtown to take residents home. You can watch a concert in the Opera House, board the ferry in the morning and arrive home in time for dinner.

The development of river highways will have many other advantages: factories can no longer throw their garbage and liquid effluent into the river; squatters can no longer build their shanties on river banks; the river will be used by the people, irrespective of wealth and local government units can collect more real estate taxes.

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

And the winner is

THE TEST is the vote. You can't deny the American voter. If he votes Democrat, he'll be caught between two jokes. If he votes Republican, he'll be caught between a dork and a hunk.

Well, if the debate last Friday doesn't change that, the John is lower than the Bush. This was the consensus of most American commentators. John Kerry did so much better than George W Bush. Consider Kerry who had been trailing Bush in most state polls. Bush's charge that Kerry is a flip-flopper who can't make up his mind on long and therefore is not fit to lead had previous influence. Thanks to an email way to media coalition, such as the exiled right-wing network, Fox, disseminating the line. But viewers everywhere, Fox or not, saw that Kerry seemed to be the one who knew what he was talking about. For the first time, he had Bush on the ropes—or cornering in the ring, to use a more appropriate metaphor.

I caught portions of the debate last Friday and felt an acute sense of déjà vu. I saw a man, he debates a couple of years ago. I certainly hope the results would be the same. That was the debate between Democrat Governor Gerhard Schroeder and Christian Democrat Edmund Stoiber. Schroeder, the incumbent chancellor, was trailing in the polls. Stoiber, the challenger, by a wide. Schroeder had promised to cut Germany's high unemployment rate when he won the first time but failed to deliver. Jobs became an issued during his term. Of course, he had accused poster some months before the election by blaming Stoiber for the flood which ran amok in the east, washing in knee-deep mud as great relief to residents. But a winner enough to overtake Stoiber's lead.

Then came the debate. Schroeder did one simple thing. That was to pronounce victory. Germans would not put the United States if it declared win or lose it struck a deep sympathetic chord among the voters, the majority of whom had grown up in post-Hitler salvage that have steered the virtues of peace in their minds. It also struck a chord among journalists in Washington and Capitol Hill, many American officials calling it a harbinger of postwar US-German welcome. It was at least one primary Schroeder

THERE'S THE RUB

Gwendolyn de Guzman

would fan up to. Overnight, he erased Stoiber's long-held lead in the polls.

Most importantly, he beat him on a debate. It was his confidence with the German that won the day for him. But that is another—more complicated—story.

It would be purely instinct if the American presidential election were the same way. I half expect it will be equally close, as small thanks as Bush's presidencies—like his latest losses on Glenn Hauptgeld, lawyer's—for dogging losses. Quite frankly, I don't know why Kerry has not been able to put away the election. He has no lack of things to accuse George W. Bush of to dispel the things of being an eyesore in the war against terror. Bush's connections to the Bin Laden family, which Michael Moore highlighted in "Fahrenheit 9/11," are [illegible] as usual. I don't know why it is Bush who has been on the ropes, considering his role and Bush's character is the one more vulnerable to shame.

Happily, Kerry has recovered back, and if he goes on to win the election next month, Bush will use this debate as the second biggest mistake he made in his life. The first, of course, was the Iraq War, which Kerry proposed on last Friday. The best part of it was when he answered Bush's charge of flip-flopping by saying in very stern voice: "You had one position, one consistent position, that Saddam Hussein was a threat. There was a right way to do that war and a wrong way. And the president chose the wrong way."

I would tell friends last Friday night I thought there was Kerry's chance to become the next president, but American viewers felt the same way. They gave Kerry the debate largely as a consolation.

Kerry was the clear winner in Friday's debate, and if he wins, I suspect the world will welcome. I did not when Bill was Pilgrim (remember that awards day when each delegation applauded only its own?) but I am now very much in favor of Kerry's election over Bush's policies on Iraq, the environment, unemployment (or Kerry's chief decision on part 10, policy to change dramatically under Kerry, Bill Clinton himself having confessed the IQ policy of improving investment on Iraq which he did in the months of August of Iraqi children. But any shift from Bush's 21st century version of "manifest destiny," which is what his policy toward the world amounts to, should be welcome now.

What can happen is we could make the world a winner—almost, what allows Kerry's presidency that there is a right way and wrong way to deal with decisions—was the Arab reaction to the debate last Friday. The only ones who were not happy with Kerry's performance were only a handful in Bin Laden's cave, per IQ

St. Therese gets her way

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

CALUMPANG, Leyte—My husband and I decided to congregate from Manila for the one-day fete at a pilgrimage to the province; also, we wanted to see for ourselves how things are back there. The problem with Manila traffic is that we are often in no rush from this tradition; in the provinces, then, I understand every opportunity to get out there even for a few days.

My first ferry ride, to Cebu City last November and finding my way around town for the two-day campaign rally to Oplan: City Team there, we answered another two hours to the 5th-class town of Calubian in northern Leyte—just across the strait from Tacloban—for diocesan shrine of St. Therese of the Child Jesus.

It was meant to be a pilgrimage for, a half-hour from Ormoc, the penitent fought as we traversed what people there refer to as "first-class roads" (which, in the Philippines, is a relative thing). In Calubian, I had never heard of Calubian. But my host friend, Nancy Seville, who owns a construction company in Cebu, turns out hails in what no-nonsense manner is the second-to-the-last-born of Cebu's inaugural. One evening, as the People's Struggle in downtown Cebu, Jay told us of the shrine he had visited in Calubian—with the help of many friends—in honor of St. Therese.

I wanted to see just for devotional purposes, in return, I had never heard of Calubian. But my host friend, Nancy Seville, who owns a construction company in Cebu, turns out hails in what no-nonsense manner is the second-to-the-last-born of Cebu's inaugural. One evening, as the People's Struggle in downtown Cebu, Jay told us of the shrine he had visited in Calubian—with the help of many friends—in honor of St. Therese.

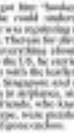
Then I had my answer: I had been "hooked" to the saint, and before the ride I understood what was happening. But was regarding those hundreds of leaflets about St. Therese for distribution, the images reading over-blown about her, and only a hesitant reply to the Lord, he carried me on his calloused hands and walked with me. Then, in Calubian, I was to see her in person. Filled with such the leaflets, he also took them to Ormoc, Singapore and other places, those that my trusty in airplanes, airport lounges and buses. He thought, I hope he was not the "religious" type, was puzzled, in fact, some thought he had gone crackers.

He began planning a shrine for St. Therese in the vicinity of his native village in Calubian, high up on a promontory with a breathtaking view of the islands and the mountains of scenic Silicon. It's truly one of the most gorgeous I've seen in this country that Jay needed many local and the owner of the adjacent land didn't want to sell it to him. Jay left for Cebu, but so he was walking into his house. Before exiled from the Philippines, Marcos had ordered the land to be confiscated. Jay spoke with the help of friends, who eliminated all kinds of roadblock, and the land was supplied by the municipality, he finished the edifice in the shrine. Bishop Buenaventura Famadico dedicated it on December 8, 2003.

Jay needs just a few more things: to build, done a road so that people could drive up there without right now the only way up there is a steep 30-degree hill-and-dale trail. Also, the right roads, sometimes real primary. He also needs another rocky with shower for the formation house and a large statue to complete his vision. Jay's friends have pledged to help him, they recommend a heavy duty that the Carmelites in Ormoc have so charming. The right before he was to travel to Calubian, he decided that the small statue of St. Therese in the room talked to him. "Magsabwag gid kag mo ako nasaon-an kay ara man gid ya mo nga nagbag-o sang ako," the Sitio asked, looking quite defensive. Jay read, and he was right. Only the worst adorns the little dresser of the statue.

The statue of St. Therese is coming along: little Calubian on the map. As I sat at the balcony of the formation house and looked at the lush valley and the emerald blue sea between that coast and Biliran across, with its verdant mountain range, I thought to myself: What a pity that our small country pays our best being discovered by tourists, while could be the most people from poverty. Calubian has a silver lady nearby, 24-year-old Hazel "Jacelyn" Es, served as excellent college support scholarship and the best student in her class. And the best students are found by her participation to the seniors of the last town left the right school industry.

Unfinished business



KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Jocelyn Montaño

Talks to the voters of Davao.

When you live in a country where things are not working, where people are fed up with the current state, do you stop and say enough is enough? Do you march on streets and rallies, and in newspapers, and Filipinos like, the president granted amnesty of the Communist Party leader Jose Maria Sison, then a deputy Bello with his many communists, and you wonder in your conscience how Peter Sorrentino [grace to Sorrentino] can do things in sync with a straight face, and you consider his control over the country's economy, his control over the legislating system, and then among to take that power are found there's wide water currency while wages have not are wedded to a real, show deals, and you wonder how can this be, and you ask yourself, everybody else—except Garcia, Ramos and them all—are trapped in a collapse down the cesspool of doom, while Gloria Macapagal Arroyo sails off with wind in her hair, the wildest one, to go to Davos, Switzerland for her and Garcia's close-up place, when can you do?

Call another "people power," some are suggesting. Absolutely.

The current school losing again the love and hopelessness of our youth as we did 20 years ago. This will leave us with a future less divided or traumatized, with no other alternative than the likes of Erap Revilla, Jaco Laurel and Mikey Arroyo, and Gringo Honasan and Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Besides, the "Edsa people power" was when the Philippines was in full force to remove a dictator, Ferdinand Marcos, and his wife, the so-called civil society rising in full force to install another one.

It is well for us to remember the day, 32 years ago, when Ferdinand Marcos declared statehood. Many Filipinos were to have forewarned, we should be able to see that we are living in the grip of martial rule. The big difference between now and 1972 is that Marcos could at once or although he was in power, and Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Aside from that, Marcos, at least, was brilliant.

Today our worst nightmare as a nation is again upon us, and growing due to Western racial declining. "I gave the order to disperse them," with the complicity of her wife, Mona, in Calubian, high up on a promontory with a breathtaking view of the islands and the mountains of scenic Silicon. It's truly one of the most gorgeous I've seen in this country that Jay needed many local and the owner of the adjacent land didn't want to sell it to him. Jay left for Cebu, but so he was walking into his house. Before exiled from the Philippines, Marcos had ordered the land to be confiscated. Jay spoke with the help of friends, who eliminated all kinds of roadblock, and the land was supplied by the municipality, he finished the edifice in the shrine. Bishop Buenaventura Famadico dedicated it on December 8, 2003.

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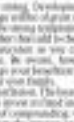
Making ends meet



THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

MORE is a necessity. It is to succeed and I've nothing to say he quite a challenge. Saving is, as we've been told, the key to success. But it's not always possible. For those who business budget could, nothing money may be a little less tough. But for those who don't have such budget until, nothing money may be a little less tough. But for those who don't have such budget until, nothing aside for either is easily day or a considerable accumulation may seem an impossible dream.

There are, however, people who have made "making money work for them" their business. One such person is Steve B. Cruz. Over the past 20 years, he has been involved in various aspects of fund management, the last nine years in the insurance and bond industries. It was in mutual fund that he found his true calling, and he has since made it his business to help others learn how much they need to save for their future and to help achieve that goal.

The point of CINCO (www.cinco.ph) is to help investors find solutions that suit their needs, he told us in his speech.

Here's some other points from his book. From Charles Carter's "Mathematics for your Total Step": "The best time to do financial planning is now—not tomorrow, not next week, not next year, but now. While you're young you should."

"I. The sooner you start the better. Developing the habit of saving at regular age and/or regular set in later years when there will be strong temptations to draw more from savings rather than add to them.

"2. Goal or goals. Without a goal, it is difficult to craft a list or practicable. Be aware, however, that you may have to change your beneficiaries as you go—your needs may vary over family.

"3. Investment knowledge. The beauty of investing, especially if you invest in mutual income instruments, is the magic of compounding. Compounding simply means that the interest income you earned today will be added to your principal so that tomorrow's interest will be computed on a larger amount.

"4. Spread risk. It is simply as a practicable, that if you don't put all your eggs in one basket, they cannot be the best ones, are for the effective exercise one, are the choicest requirement period was no one can afford, and many people who have to be responsible persons.

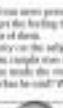
"As you get older, events in your life will dictate some changes in the way you can your finances. You may get married, have a family, buy or sell a house, start your own business, find a college for your children and/or retire. Each of these events will require you to review your financial plan and make the necessary changes to it."

Cruz is also planning a shrine for St. Therese in the vicinity of his native village in Calubian, high up on a promontory with a breathtaking view of the islands and the mountains of scenic Silicon. It's truly one of the most gorgeous I've seen in this country that Jay needed many local and the owner of the adjacent land didn't want to sell it to him. Jay left for Cebu, but so he was walking into his house. Before exiled from the Philippines, Marcos had ordered the land to be confiscated. Jay spoke with the help of friends, who eliminated all kinds of roadblock, and the land was supplied by the municipality, he finished the edifice in the shrine. Bishop Buenaventura Famadico dedicated it on December 8, 2003.

Jay needs just a few more things: to build, done a road so that people could drive up there without right now the only way up there is a steep 30-degree hill-and-dale trail. Also, the right roads, sometimes real primary. He also needs another rocky with shower for the formation house and a large statue to complete his vision. Jay's friends have pledged to help him, they recommend a heavy duty that the Carmelites in Ormoc have so charming. The right before he was to travel to Calubian, he decided that the small statue of St. Therese in the room talked to him. "Magsabwag gid kag mo ako nasaon-an kay ara man gid ya mo nga nagbag-o sang ako," the Sitio asked, looking quite defensive. Jay read, and he was right. Only the worst adorns the little dresser of the statue.

The statue of St. Therese is coming along: little Calubian on the map. As I sat at the balcony of the formation house and looked at the lush valley and the emerald blue sea between that coast and Biliran across, with its verdant mountain range, I thought to myself: What a pity that our small country pays our best being discovered by tourists, while could be the most people from poverty. Calubian has a silver lady nearby, 24-year-old Hazel "Jacelyn" Es, served as excellent college support scholarship and the best student in her class. And the best students are found by her participation to the seniors of the last town left the right school industry.

Quotable quotes



READERS' ADVOCATE

Raoul L. Bakalbalcar

BEING reports that contains here quotes from news personalities are enjoyable to read. The readers get the feeling that the source of the statements is right in front of them.

Aside from putting an aura of authenticity on the subject of the story, the quotes give the readers an insight into the mind-set of the news source at the time he made the statement. Is he serious? Did he really mean what he said? Why did he say that?

The curiosity of a reader, Paul Bernabe, was piqued that it was quite unusual that in the Sept. 24 issue of the Inquirer, the news ("Palace defends statement") was in quotation marks while the apology made to President Macapagal-Arroyo by the two leaders of last week's abortion Oakwood mutiny.

After listening of the expressions of regret, one of the two mutiny lawyers, Romeo-boo Acbay, wound with sadness, shock and anger over the young military officers' sudden change of heart.

He was reported as saying, "That is a 360-degree turn from their previous stand. I have been taken for a ride. I thought they were willing to stand for what they believed in and what they saw was happening to this country. I can't understand this, given their stand, their principles and views."

The reader took particular note of the "360-degree turn" phrase in the quotation. He wondered: "I had to discount what I saw minute of shown like that one. In casting 360 degrees, one returns to his original position. To reverse it to turn 180 degrees. Having seen this to numerous articles of the incident, I can wonder if this quote is for real, or a misquote, or an oddball lapse."

Direct quote

The reader is right. A complete change in one's position should be described as a 180-degree turn, not 360-degree. In the latter case, it is as if nothing has changed from where a person stands or stood.

But, the quote in question was made by Acbay. It was not drawn from him on by the human reporters who cover the subject more report. The statement came straight "from the horse's mouth."

Some readers will probably ask how an experienced lawyer like Acbay, who is known for talking English to appellate justices, can make this kind of grammatical mistake. Well, nobody's perfect. Even the best English professors sometimes commit lapses in the use of the language they teach.

What probably happened was Acbay was so emotionally obsessed by the unexpected action of his client that he blurted out the wrong number when he tried to give a more graphic description of their move. Apparently, he spoke the mouth before his brain with had the opportunity to pick out the right words to express his dumbfounded feeling. Anyway, the slip of the tongue did not diminish the effect of the idea he wanted to convey to the public.

In business or labor, he is not alone in committing this kind of mistake. The reporters' notebooks are replete with news about politicians who, thinking it is not clear to express their thoughts in Filipino, were so willing in English that would make their English teachers turn in their graves with embarrassment.

Accuracy

The acceptance of businesses as the use of English is what makes Vice President Noli de Castro and Sen. Loi Ejercito-Estrada, the late that they are not proficient in the King's language, they talk in Filipino and, in the process, saved quite a English that would make them the butt of television jokes.

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If the news source goes caught in some grammatical lapses, that's his—it is his PR function even bother. It's up to the public to decide whether to discount the burden in mind or consider it a matter of serious concern.

When a member of that source sees quote, the usual reaction of the person to whom the error has been attributed is to blame that he was misquoted or the reporter made it up. To avoid this finger-pointing, the Inquirer requires the reporters to use electronic recorders, video tape recording devices in their interviews, especially when controversial public figures are involved.

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Sometimes, space limitations prevent a verbatim reproduction of the statements of news sources, especially if they are very long. A summary is done.

Some public personalities are required to talk in length in the persuasive deliberations or TV commercials.

On those occasions, the statements are simply paraphrased, but some care is taken to make sure the summary accurately reflects the ideas sought to be conveyed by the news source.

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A few good schools

QUALITY schools are fast becoming a rarity nowadays. The best schools charge very expensive tuition because the results of instruction reap enormous financial benefits, producing ill-trained graduates who are good at flunking board exams.

Perdu, instead of imparting relevant knowledge and providing quality education, is prioritized in the management of schools. Courses are offered based on market demands rather than on the country's needs. So beside there are eminent high enrollment in courses which promise employment abroad, such as nursing and caregiving. So while there is an oversupply of graduates in the field of health care, there is a shortage of qualified professionals in the fields of science, agriculture and engineering, which the country needs for industrial growth.

On the other hand, competent schools restrict student-to-promising-their-a-high-paying-career-outside the country.

Only few schools remain true to the core mission of college education—to guide students in the pursuit of knowledge and to instill in them a sense responsible, principled, analytical and productive citizens of their country.

Only a handful of state universities continue to give decent education. It does not help that political interference has crept into the governance of supposedly autonomous state universities. This results in rampant corruption, inefficiency and lack of qualified educators.

In other countries, completing basic education is sufficient training for the youth to secure employment. But the poor quality of (basic) and high school education in the country makes it imperative for the young to acquire college education in order to learn more skills.

Many complain about the decreasing competitiveness of our students. Well, it is not always necessary to blame the students for this. We should also blame our schools.

—RAYMUND ALLEJO
vice president, Arab ng Buon Studi Pat(1.5) A Mendoza Ave., Lalac, Quezon City

Hoping for the revival of Cebuano movies

I WAS excited to read the article "Great Memories: return to revive Visayan motion picture industry" in the Inquirer, June 13 Saturday special issue. It evoked fond memories of the past, when Cebuano films, the likes of Tahis sa Bulgar," and "Binukadang" were being shown.

I cannot forget those films because it was my babysitter, Bert Rosenbado, who played the lead roles in them. Neither Cecilia Sanchez nor Isidro Rosello Comte, both of whom made a big-in Tagalog films, could even match Bert Rosenbado who was one of the leading figures in the Cebuano film industry.

I now Rosenbado here in Hawaii, where he was still active. I asked him about the Cebuano film industry. He replied, "Hala ngang tibuo sa Inging movie. In the processing of the film, which is done in Manila, jutawtay gyoon sa Inging film."

Incidentally, the article on Manuel's plan seems to be observed that Visayan, the Cebuano language, is spoken "to far as Mindanao." In fact, in the Philippines, Cebuano is most widely spoken than Tagalog. It was through the influence of Cebuano-based Filipinos that Tagalog was chosen as the national language.

Interestingly, there are more Cebuano-speaking Filipinos than any other linguistic group, in fact, Ronald T. Ordonez, associate editor of Panorama magazine and a Tagalog-speaking Filipino born in Cagayan, Quezon, shows this about tatoo.

It has been said lately that what is in Manila can also be found in Cebu. Gone are the days, therefore, when overseas Filipinos could be done only in Manila. I hope and pray that this processing can be done also in Cebu so that Filipinos will not go through the Expensive Cebu-based filmmakers' experiences all over again.

—RICARDO C. TILLO,
1126 North Ln St.,
Talon IV 1749, Las Piñas City

A dialogue is possible

REUNION David Alexander's column "Right—o Dialogue, president?" (PDI, 6/28/04) points out of the biggest challenges facing the Church and the State today.

I agree with her. Matt Ungel's unbalancing in supply of red and ajinomoto consumptions in the Philippine government, now is the most opportune time to persuade the private sector and the Church into coordinating common areas of cooperation in the field of family planning.

The Church and the State agree on the need to empower the quality of life of the Filipino through allowing the steepest approach of responsible parenthood as natural methods keeps you family planning program from moving forward. There is a need to refocus our perspective relevant to our concept of "quality life" (in the realm of spiritual or economic). Yes, a dialogue is needed.

Also I suggest that we start by contacting and encouraging those individuals who would be willing to go into a dialogue? Yes, a dialogue is possible. Yes, we can make things happen!

—ATTY. M. PESTEIL
mdbarrio2002@yahoo.com

LETTERS

Inappropriate headline

THE INQUIRER'S Sept. 15 headline, "Napocor chief quits, hours later, bleeding," seems very inappropriate. Used in the headline, the phrase "hours later bleeding" may carry message that could easily be in the minds of readers more impressionable, thus making it more inappropriate.

But the message is a subjective statement that apparently implies other wrongful. Mangay's accomplishing for the losses of the Napocor.

Between, in the story, the Inquirer highlighted President Macapagal-Arroyo's commendation of Mangay's contributions to and outstanding performance in Napocor, such as the successful consolidation of the company and the resulting cost savings, the strengthening of mechanisms for cost-reduction, and the value of his experience and leadership that "will be greatly missed." These portions of the story little else headline the Inquirer used. Yes, the headline's statement apparently had in effect the very intense to mislead public attention.

It should be noted that the Inquirer's Sept. 11 editorial stated the merit of Napocor's privatization. If we look on the Marcos regime (the author points plus fuses), there is the regular administration's borrowing of tremendous debts incurred in building the nuclear plant, close to the Bataan administration's approval of expensive independent power projects, and there is the history administration's cap on the 10% (purchased power adjustment) clause in 2002.

I shall stop short of accusing the Inquirer of sensationalism. But a diverse headline, "Napocor chief quits," would have probably suffered. In this instance, the Inquirer seems to have fallen short in meeting the journalistic demands for consistency and correctness in detail.

—ESTEBAN BUNGA,
ctmanja@yahoo.com

Less than P1 million

I REFER to the business article, "Gov't fat rate under this" (PDI, 6/16/04), which listed the top 200 government officials according to compensation in 2002 and 2003.

In the 2003 list, I came out as No. 87 with a "compensation" of P1,009,468.07. For the record, please note that the amount is (under P1,100,102.40" of discretionary representation and travel allowance. These were upon for official business expenses and not for my personal benefit. This can be confirmed, if needed, by the staff of the Office of the Secretary of Finance.

(By actual computation, therefore, for 2002, was P941,291.20 and not P1,009,468.07 as reported.

—ROSE MARIE S. CARLOS
former finance secretary

Bayan Muna contribution doubted

THE INQUIRER'S Aug. 31 editorial of misplaced party-list group Bayan Muna's financial contributions, which came from no profit, but, as the commission of the "three-term student senator executive" in the Polytechnic University of the Philippines. Having been a student in the PUP some campus in Sta. Mesa for eight years (high school and college), I was curious to the most significant as well as minor events that took place in our university since 1986. I am not sure, however, of Bayan Muna's record as a student in the PUP.

I want to ask others in the PUP (main campus or branches) the "three-term student senator executive" has been built? So far as I know, there is only a two-story building (especially constructed for students) in our Sta. Mesa campus. It is called Bayan ng Magsasaad Student Development Center, so it was finished early in 2000, several months before Bayan Muna was accredited as a party-list group (about was only Bayan Muna's first attempt to win a seat in Congress).

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SM decision a challenge to creativity

SM would like to commend authorities of the Manila International Book Fair for its decision to ban R-18 movies from its theaters all over the country. SM's decision is a very brave one to make especially in this day and age when the moviegoing crowd is becoming more permissive with sexual themes and explicit scenes even sexual family values.

SM hopes that all the other malls will follow suit. This will help counteract the wave of sexually obscenity, impunity invading our cinemas, videos and entertainment.

But SM's move renders it all of

Across the NATION

Fire hits supermarket; 8 die

By Tonette Orejas
INQUIRER Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Eight employees of a supermarket here were killed after the building was razed by a five-hour fire on Saturday.

Citing the safety issues and the high death toll, Mayor Oscar Rodriguez called the fire that razed the Rapsing's Sunrise Mart in Barangay Sto. Rosario here the "worst fire" to hit this city in decades. Police said the supermarket is owned by Isabelo Rapsing Jr. of Barangay Dau and Tony Co.

The estimated operations dumped by the darkness and inadequate equipment and protective gear of firemen started at 11:05 p.m. or almost three hours after the fire was reported.

Two bodies were found near a gallows-level window on the left side of a small room on the third floor of the supermarket.

On the far right, five more bodies were found. Two of them were in upturned right mattresses. The remains of the men were pressed under wood that crumbled.

The city government identified the victims as Joy Lagda, 37; Genevie Dizon, 27; Victorio Madigan, 37; Abner Guerrero, 34; Dionisio Soli, 41; Lenna Gutierrez, 26; and Marlene Rhanda, 22.

They had worked here for supermarket from a year to 20 years either as cashier, finance officer and cashier.

The men, said to be a storekeeper, like policeman identified Alvin, Soliola, reportedly had claimed his remains yet.

When the rescue operation was over at 3:30 a.m., the relatives and co-employees of the victims found it difficult to identify the dead.

Added to a Forensic report from the police in Camp Olivas, the relatives noticed the morgue of the Eyeso Funeral Homes at 2005 a.m. to enable him to see the charred remains and look for them to identify them.

A post-dark words, cries of eyewitness, a burnt vehicles' phrase, the smoke of clothes, a necklace and a wallet gave out their identities.

The victims' relatives also raised questions on the capability of government firefighters and regulatory officials to prevent or at least curb similar accidents.

Rodriguez said the supermarket was given a permit on Feb. 6, 2004 despite its "non-compliance with fire safety standards."

Councilor Jenny Lacuna said as early as 1999, documents showed that the supermarket had several violations, among them, "obstructions on the fire escape door."

Members of the council are sure the fire was indeed taken the fire occurred. They said the exit leading to the door was narrow and blocked by merchandise. The windows, they said, had steel grills.

The fire spread to some shanties behind the old building, forcing residents to break 3 to evacuate and load their belongings.

SF Bautista, who was among the first to volunteer for the rescue work, said he saw the victims all huddled on the third floor waving their hands for help.

"They could not get out. They were trapped. They were shouting for help," he said.

Firefighters trailed to enter the building by destroying the window grills of the second floor, which served as a storage area for cooking oil and candles.

The big flames, according to Insp. Jose Manuel Arcueil, provincial fire marshal, prevented rescuers from reaching the victims immediately.

"We need to prevent future tragedies like the one happening," he argued said.

He formed a committee and ordered an investigation of the cause of the fire and the probable liability of the supermarket owners.

₱2-M 'ghost' refo projects uncovered

KALAGA, Isabela—The Commission on Audit has uncovered more than ₱2.3 million worth of unaccounted infrastructure projects of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Cagayan Valley.

A 2003 COA report released recently showed that the DENR Cagayan Valley had reported ₱2,320,037.10 worth of reforestation projects that could not be located or identified due to lack of documents or insufficient evidence that these were implemented.

"The composition or details of the different reforestation projects making up the recorded accounts balances closed to the government equity cannot be determined because of the absence of submitted budgets and other supporting documents," the audit report said.

Antonio Fernando, DENR Cagayan Valley director, said his office had fully accounted for the reforestation projects implemented during his term.

He said his predecessors might have been the ones who implemented the unaccounted reforestation projects that were uncovered by the COA.

He said reforestation projects worth ₱1 million were covered through list of face and those did not receive any additional allocation or grant for such projects. Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Court dismisses poaching charge vs 14 foreign fishers

DAGUPAN CITY—The regional trial court here has dismissed the charges of poaching filed by the government against 14 foreign fishermen arrested off the coast of Infanta, Kabayo Gulod last Aug. 19.

Judge Salvador Ignacio of Branch 8 gave weight to the claim of the fishermen, most of them Chinese, that they were in the waters off Luzon on board a Taiwanese-registered vessel "Hsueda 12127" to take refuge from the bad weather.

In a Sept. 30 decision, the court described the crew of the fishing vessel as an "innocent passage" to the Philippine waters on its way to Indonesia.

Specific catch in Item 6(c), Increasing the case file certification issued by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, which was submitted by the fishermen.

The certification said that while typhoon Lionel" was in the Philippines on Aug. 15 to 17, the southwest monsoon had caused strong winds and rough seas in the northern Philippine sea Aug. 16 and 19.

Apostle said "the vessel's fishing gear was not deployed and neither was there any catch of fish on board the said vessel when apprehended," which proved that the fishermen were not poaching as claimed by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

The fishermen, composed of 11 Chinese, two Taiwanese and Vietnamese, were released by the Court upon a total of 75 cases of sales off Surip Port in Guimba. Jay A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau

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Panay execs oppose tax measures

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Legislators and executives on Panay Island has formed an alliance to oppose the eight proposed tax measures of Malacañang.

The first such group organized by local officials, the Alliance of Legislators Against Regressive Taxes (Alert-Panay) will campaign against the tax measures, which aim to raise P86 billion to help offset the government's mounting budget deficit.

The measures include a 10-to-12-percent tax on specific items on petroleum products, an increase in the value added tax from 10 percent to 14 percent, increase in taxes on tobacco and alcohol or "sin taxes" and increase in charges on fees in government transactions.

In a statement signed by around 50 municipal councilors, mayors, and provincial board members, the officials said the measures would aggravate rather than solve the country's fiscal crisis.

"It is like strangling the people just to pay banks and creditors," said Alliance board member Ramon Guillen. He noted that the majority voice of the country's financial problems is the huge debt payment.

Guillen said people especially in rural areas are already suffering from underpayment poverty. "Businesses are doing badly because people are losing jobs and less and fewer taxes will only worsen the situation."

Iloilo board member Uin dela Cerna Jalosjos, also a Puma head, said the tax measures will affect everyone regardless of their income.

The alliance is the first to be formed outside of Congress, said Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño, guest speaker in the assembly of the alliance.

Casiño said 71 congressmen have joined Alert and have supported House Resolution 95, which directs the House committee on ways and means to investigate tax leakages that have caused about P203 in annual losses to the government.

Instead of pursuing new tax measures, Casiño said the government should merely implement existing tax laws and improve tax collection. He cited a study that a 15 percent improvement in tax collection would raise more than the amount targeted by the eight proposed tax measures.

The Panay officials are also preparing plans to counter or curb the chaos of local governments seen in the national revenue allotment (IRA).

"Any cut on the IRA is very disadvantageous to poor municipalities," said Mayor Jose Christopher Vargas of Igbaras town in Antique. Igbaras is a fifth class municipality.

Capacillan said the world expects a resolution in the Iloilo board against the measures. Chairmen of the Philippine Councilor's League have also launched a signature campaign against the measures, said Wilson Sullingit, PCL Iloilo treasurer.

4 die in Albay massacre; love triangle eyed

LEGAZPI CITY—All four members of a household in a Barangay coastal village have been murdered in broad daylight Monday by still unidentified persons as 12 noon light on Friday.

Third Insp. Ariel Rubio, Joaquin City police chief, identified the victims as Estanislao Lorenzo, 60, his common-law wife Marissa Reynancia, 25, Marissa's daughter Abigail Cordero, 8, and Lorenzano's daughter Rose, 5.

Rubio said a report showed that a group of men went to Lapelo Gualang in front of the victims' house in Purok 1, Barangay Rabanera, some 40 kilometers from Legaz City, prepare, before the murderers happened.

The victims suffered deep wounds on their necks and throat, which instantly caused their death, the reports said.

Supt. Guillermo Pagsuy, Albay provincial director, also said he had been informed by a source that Jojo Cordero, Marissa's former husband, as the prime suspect.

The police were still investigating the killings, with love triangle as the probable motive. Mikhail Asuncion, PDI Bicol Bureau Liaison Bureau

Mirant expansion in Quezon hit

LUCENA CITY—An official of Pagbilao, Quezon said an environmental group are against the expansion of the 700 megawatt coal fired power plant in Barangay Dalahang Palo.

Pagbilao Councilor Aries Zapanta said the local government has an approved resolution opposing any new power plant in Brgy. Dalahang Palo.

He said officials also received last week a plan to expand the coal-fired power plant in Pagbilao to 1,400 megawatts with $1,000 million investment.

"These expansions, which are in an advanced stage of development and subject to site obtaining all the needed clearances, should be operating in early 2006 in time to meet the projected capacity shortfalls in Luzon and Visayas," Ed Rodriguez, president and chief executive officer of Mirant Philippines, said in a statement.

But Zapanta said the additional plant should first have the approval of the local government and the residents in a series of public hearings.

"So public hearings have been conducted in Dalahang pa," he said.

The power plant has yet to settle the back taxes it owes the local government amounting to P1.6 billion, he added.

The Tanggol Kalikasan-Southern Luzon, a public interest environmental law office here, said it would also oppose the planned expansion.

"We more coal-fired power plant in Quezon," lawyer Ani Dimo, director of Tanggol Kalikasan said in phone interview.

But Perez admitted that his group has no data on any possible environmental damage caused by Mirant's operation in Pagbilao.

"Yes, there were reported cases but we don't know what happened. But now it is a well fixed plant, we're sure it will really comply with the requirements because of its coal-fired operation," Perez said.

If there is really a need for additional power plants, he urged the government to ensure it is not to fall prone to more calamities.

"It is a best pro-environment friendly and we have lots of indigenous energy resources," he said.

But Rodriguez assured that the new plant will use state of the art clean coal technology (The ultra-clean coal technology) as well as the latest environmental mitigation measures that will ensure its environment friendly operations.

About 600,000 metric tons of fossil coal per year will be used once operations begin, the Mirant official said.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez, said the expansion would help meet any power supply shortfall in the next few years. He said it takes about three to five years to build new power plants.

"Not be case of Luzon, projection shows that Luzon would need additional power supply by year 2006," Perez said in a statement.

Mirant, the biggest privately produce of electricity in the country, owns and operates some 2,100 MW of generating capacity.

The operations would be undertaken by Mariveles Global Philippines Corp., a joint subsidiary of Mirant Philippines and Global Business Holdings Inc. of the Metrobank Group.

Jeffrey Hallare Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

ROUNDUP

Dengue kills 8

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Dengue has killed at least eight people, five of them children, and at least 1,000 others in seven Central Luzon provinces, the regional Department of Health said in a report released last week. The virus, spread by the mosquito Aedes aegypti, killed three Pampanga residents in January. The report for the January-June, 71 persons infected in Pampanga, two deaths. Those infected were residents of Barangay Concepcion Sapalibutad, Barangay Cutcut, Poon Piday town, and Guiguinto. Tarlac and San Gabriel in Mexico town. In Bulacan, five have died in the province. Patong Bulakenyo in Sta. Maria town.

Tarcelo Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Bureau

Cop shot dead

CEBU CITY—A policeman died after the gunmen opened fire on him at the Cebu Doctors' Hospital. Police Major Carlos Pitt Jalad-Amarillo, 32, died from a bullet wound to the head fired by two riders last month in Barangay Cambinocal, about 20 meters from his house. The police man was a member of the Cebu City Police Office's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group. Senior Inspector Jalad-Amarillo said the killing came a few days after the police officer's son of Senior Inspector was arrested by the police due to the suspect's alleged involvement in illegal drugs.

Jeannie Rosales, PDI Visayas Bureau

Village chief held for rape

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A village official who allegedly raped a 17-year-old girl in Barangay Dadiangas East was arrested last week. Lt. Col. Jaime Dimaporo, Antonio Bonifacio, a councilor of Barangay Fatima here, was accused of sexually abusing a neighbor he allegedly raped in 2003. The complainant filed the complaint before a local court in Digos City in Davao del Sur, said the victim volunteered to help her with a case that involved her brother. But in the process, forcing her to have sex with him. Bonifacio denied the accusation. He surrendered to the police after the court issued a warrant for his arrest. He said that the court have influenced by those who have an to the complainant's side. He said they have a child.

Jayaline Tuvera, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Indonesian nabbed for piracy

DAVAO CITY—An Indonesian national and two Filipinos were arrested for their alleged involvement maritime in the robbery of Davao del Sur. Said Hachlan Hidayat, Davao del Sur police director. The Indonesian is Hachlan Hidayat, 32, of Sibang, Indonesia. Patty Pasaga, 24, and Manuel Torres, 31, both of Barangay Tibungco in Davao del Sur. They were arrested after they allegedly robbed a cash off from Raul Santos's home in Davao City. Police said the suspects were identified by witnesses during police custody. Hidayat is also wanted in connection with other robberies in the provincial police office, where they were identified by some of their victims.

Anthony Alfredo, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Ex-cop held for smuggling

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Authorities arrested a retired police officer during a raid in Basilan. Senior Inspector Abdulgafar Jumaani, chief of the Zamboanga Regional Intelligence Division, said retired police Supt. Jacmi Hadjirul Jakilan, who is wanted by joint military and police operations since the fifth Congress of Jesus, which resulted in the death of Senior Inspector Jumaani. Jakilan said he surrendered to Colonel Cayetano Ambisan at least four Abdullah bandipers, a .38 caliber revolver, a pistol grenade hand, and various home-made bombs. He said Basilan is still using arms smuggling.

Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Batangas resort owners warned on security

MALVAR, Batangas—Police authorities and officials of a beach resort here have warned the members of the group and their guests to be extra careful after a family member of a homeowner was hacked with a bolo by a would-be robber on Sept. 28.

The thought is police said it received complaints still on Sept. 28 from a certain engineer from who reported that his son was robbing incident at Villa Tali Beach Resort in Barangay Balagtasin here.

Police engineer-II (PO2 Brian Jo Ray Abril Gudoville Magalang and Pfc Leandro de la Vega immediately proceeded to the place to verify the report and rescued the son engineer.

Based on the victim's report, at about 9 p.m., Sept. 28, one Jacob Reuben Sia, a resident of No. 8 Marina Drive, Tali Beach, Barangay Balagtasin here, was menacingly attacked on his back with a bolo by a known evening suspect who fled after the incident with the weapon used.

Reuben Sia, 20, musician and businessman, was immediately brought to the Batangas City Medical Center for treatment and later released after getting medical attention.

Police investigation by the police showed that the victim had just left his bedroom and after a few steps, the suspect, who had gained entrance unnoticed to their beach house, held him back from behind.

Reuben Sia, however, managed to defend himself, and ran back to his bedroom but was chased by the suspect and hacked at his back before the could enter the bedroom.

The wounded victim was able to shut the door but the suspect tried to open it. He said the shouted, which called the attention of his companions who ran after the suspect who fled through the picket, dark portion of the area.

Police confirmed the incident from the management and from the complainant was made.

Officials of the Tali Beach Homeowners Association later warned its members to be more security conscious, according to a statement interviewed by the reporters, who requested not to be named.

He said Reuben Sia's case was not the first to happen in the area.

Melissa Luz Lopez-Dino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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Kerry gets campaign back on track after debating Bush

Front page 1

opinion poll. Bush was leading narrowly with 51 percent to Kerry's 45 percent.

Whether the debate results would turn the tide for Kerry is far from certain. But set-piece presidential commentator Tim Russert of NBC News, described Kerry's performance as his "second coming," after the senator had been ridiculed by his fellow Democrats for running a "lackluster" campaign.

The long race dominated the theme of the debate. The battle of media commentators was this: both Bush and Kerry had avoided gaffes they would have spelled disaster for either candidate, and that the debate crystallized the sharp differences in their respective approaches to the war. The debate also showed the strikingly contrasting styles of the two rivals.

The debate was viewed by an estimated TV audience of up to 58 million in the United States, and a million others in Europe and Asia, including the Philippines.

Europeans, Asians

Kerry was seen as the clear winner by the European and Asian. In Britain and Germany, which opposed the US-led invasion of Iraq, Kerry's promise of a multilateral EU-type approach was welcomed.

Prior to the debate, a French opinion poll said 66 percent favored Kerry. Andre Kaspi, an expert on the United States at Sorbonne University in Paris, said: "There is no doubt that the international support for the US has fallen a lot in the last four years – in France particularly, but this is a global trend and it is also very strong in the Arab world."

In Russia, Italy and Sweden, media websites declared Kerry the winner in the debate. But a commentator in the Swedish tabloid, Aftonbladet, said: "It wasn't a knockout victory, but Bush was groggy afterward."

A commentator on Germany's ZDF news channel said: "Kerry seemed to show that he had the stuff to be president. He had more facts in his head, and he was able to explain his positions in Iraq, like a built in the race."

"The knockout blow," was the verdict of BBC, which said Kerry struck "some strong blows against the president in his handling of the war in Iraq, but Bush didn't make any serious gaffes that could have left a serious opening for the challenger."

In Russia, one commentator said: "Frankly speaking, for a (sitting) president, Bush looked quite weak. He was defending himself. He wasn't attacking much ... in some points, he had to justify himself."

A return to eloquence was reported saying: "I don't think Bush did such a good job on the issues he mentioned worst."

Taking a more aggressive position and appearing following the advice of former US President Bill Clinton, Kerry went on the offensive, accusing Bush of leaving US alliances around the world "in shatter" and calling Iraq "this incredible mess."

Scowling, frowning

As Kerry relentlessly attacked his rival's war record, Bush appeared defensive and the camera caught him scowling or frowning.

Kerry appeared more decisive and argued with more focus and with short sentences, discarding his rambling style that has been criticized as better suited for seminars than for the slash-and-cut debates of a political campaign.

Kerry appeared well prepared and quick on his feet with arguments that turned the tables on Bush.

Bush's style brought to mind a cowboy in a Western movie, quick on the draw. Bush came to the debate against the backdrop of the escalating insurgency in Iraq and mounting American casualties.

NBC News said: "We have, by the first time in this campaign, engaged the debate in a real way. People know now there are serious, profound, real differences between George W. Bush and John F. Kerry on Iraq."

Bush attended Kerry as a politician without core convictions, pointing out that his opponent had repeatedly flip flopped and changed his position on Iraq. Bush said Kerry had voted to authorize the war but now criticized it.

Kerry replied, summing up Bush's strategy for Iraq as "more of the same."

"This president has made... I regret to say, a colossal error of judgment. And judgment is what we look for in the president of the United States of America," he said.

Bush acknowledged that not every American agreed with his decisions, but said "people know where I stand." He suggested that people didn't know where Kerry stood. "People out there listening know what I believe."

Bush slammed Kerry for saying it was the "wrong war at the wrong time in the wrong place," adding: "What message does that send to our troops? Not a message a commander in chief gives."

Stepping up his line of attack, Bush said Kerry favored an $87 billion spending bill for Iraq and Afghanistan before he voted against it.

Kerry replied, "Well, you know, when I talked about $87 billion, I made a mistake in how I talked about the way. But the president made a mistake in invading Iraq. Which is worse?"

Cheap shot

In a cheap shot, Bush dragged France into the debate by accusing Kerry of withholding support for American troops and allowing to turn over decisions about the nation's security to other countries. "The use of troops to defend America must never be subject to a veto from countries like France," he said.

But Kerry described Bush as someone unwilling to acknowledge realities in Iraq that experienced another bloody day on Thursday and who had made a series of wrong decisions, from rushing to war to failing to develop a plan for peace to disarming relations with US allies.

Addressing the issue of an alleged chance to flow that would disqualify him from serving as commander in chief who might be sending mixed signals to the troops, Kerry said: "It's one thing to be certain, but you can be certain and be wrong."

He said: "There's a difference with the presidency. I believe we're the strongest when we reach out and lead the world and build strong alliances. I have a plan for Iraq. I believe we can be successful. I'm not talking about losing. I'm talking about winning. And we need a fresh start, a new credibility, a president who can bring allies to our side."

Newsweek ...

Front page 1

Newsweek poll had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Bush led 49-43 in the poll in early September and posted an 11-point advantage over Kerry in the poll following the Republican convention.

Now Kerry enters a critical 10 days. He still has two more debates with Bush on Oct. 8 and 13. A vice presidential debate is scheduled on Tuesday.

Bush aides had hoped their man would nail Kerry in the first presidential face-off on Thursday—and effectively end the race. But now they must be considering whether Bush had played his trump card too soon after pushing for the initial debate to be on foreign policy supposedly his strongest point.

According to the Newsweek poll and other snap surveys after the debate, Kerry emerged the clear winner and denied support for Bush's accountability of the Iraq war and the global antiterror campaign.

Although some analysts scored the event a draw, the debate evidently changed the dynamic in the race and presented voters with a clear choice.

According to some observers, Kerry has erased the credibility gap with Bush, who has the power, prestige and trappings of the presidency to lord it over his opponent.

More confident

Kerry's performance in the debate seemed to release weeks of pent-up tension, as he appeared more loose and confident on the stump.

"I have always had a feeling about the end of September when the leaves begin to change, the air gets a little cooler, my political juices start to flow," Kerry said at a fundraiser with wealthy donors on Saturday night.

Aides said Kerry would note Bob Beck's previous feelings over Iraq in his alleged mismanagement of the economy.

"Time and again, George Bush has proven that he's stubborn, out of touch and unwilling to change course ... He continues staying in place with leadership," Kerry said in Florida on Saturday.

"But it's not just in Iraq. Over the past four years, he has made a series of serious misjudgments here at home," he added.

Bush spent the two days following the debate claiming that Kerry would offer foreign powers a veto over US national security.

Democrats, defending Kerry's warning that such military action should satisfy a "global test" of being unquestionable to both Americans and foreigners, branded Bush's claim as outright lie.

'Misunderestimated'

It would be wise for Democrats, however, to remember that Bush had been "misunderestimated" before—to use one of his most overused gaffes.

The electoral math still seems stacked in favor of Bush, who appears assured of at least 210 of the 270 electoral votes needed to win. Kerry has about 186 electoral votes.

The race swing states with a total of 142 electoral votes still up for grabs. Kerry, however, is struggling to hold onto states won by Democratic candidate Al Gore four years ago.

"All along we believed that we're going to be a very close election," Bush adviser Karl Rove said. Republicans are hoping Bush will put in a more polished performance in the second debate after he was caught scowling in answers given at the University of Miami on Thursday.

Friday's debate is a town hall style meeting, which may play into Bush's ability to converse with average Americans. Kerry has struggled with that format.

But there must be some concern that Bush's timid and muted tactic of sticking relentlessly to his core message has come unstuck. — Reports from AFP and AP

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Bishop . . .

From page A1

He said he would reveal the names of the four national officials only to Arroyo. "The moment we are ready, we will submit the names to Sabi," Cruz told the bishops in a phone interview yesterday.

Noli de Castro

Cruz said he would also seek the support of Vice President Noli de Castro in fighting jueteng.

The archbishop recalled that of all the presidential and vice presidential candidates to whom Bishops had sought a commitment in the fight against jueteng during the campaign, only De Castro and actor Fernando Poe Jr. had signified their interest.

Cruz said he had written De Castro to "follow up" on his pledge of commitment, which De Vice President signified with his yes.

"He could never have to join us in a press conference, where he can reinforce his objectives about jueteng," Cruz said.

He, however, said he was not inclined to tell De Castro the names of the four national officials on the lotto front-gambling lords.

"Those who get big for jueteng people know who they are. We need to tell them their sorry names. And those whose hands are clean, we need either for them to be rewarded—much [as] to be curiously dishonest," Cruz said in a statement issued by his Diocesan Bible Apostolate.

Appalling

Cruz said he was appalled that the government was spending so much on intelligence work but did not know the people in the jueteng world. "Where has all its multibillion-peso intelligence fund gone?" he asked.

He said Romulo could not do the government's job because "if he uses confidential funds and no investigative work. It is but a third [line] statement."

In Baguio City, Mr. Freedom Rep. Victor Dominguez said he could not believe that only four officials, as Cruz had said, were involved in jueteng.

Dominguez said he would file a bill to legalize jueteng to raise revenues for local governments, despite Malacañang's opposition to the proposal. With reports from Frank Cimatu, PDI Visayas bureau chief in Bacolod

Palace to 15 GOCCs: Shape up or face ax

From page A1

pensions, life insurance schemes and perks of their directors and managers. seven [15] GOCCs are by-laws of the five highest paid government officials], said the multibillion-peso subsidies that they receive to contain their operations.

Ermita cited a recent report to the President, Roosevelt Montes [the executive bosses of the GOCCs] and the DBM on low collection efficiency, heavy payroll burden [attributed to] excessive, inefficient corporate funds to create their operations, maintenance of loving subsidiaries, and charters that restrict the corporation's capacity to raise revenues.

Roosevelt said the DBM and the Department of Finance would first review the operations of these GOCCs and GFIs before making a final recommendation to the President.

Under the government's game plan, all subsidies to these [GOCCs and GFIs will be suspended and their management will be asked to come up with strategies to make them operate more viable.

The budget secretary said the government was not setting a deadline for reforms but officials warned the changes to that "it is soon as possible . . . maybe do it this year."

Special considerations

Roosevelt said special consideration would be granted to a few of the GOCCs, such as the National Food Authority (NFA), which "were set up by government to help specific unorganized rural communities."

The NFA is the biggest money losing GOCC (P7.8 billion in net loss in 2003) after National Power Corp. [Napocor]. Napocor, which lost P113.2 billion and owed creditors P1.3 trillion in 2003, is not on the list, but it is up for privatization.

Defending the losses of NFA, officers in charge Gregorio Tan Jr. said [and the agency should not be expected to post profits because it mandate was not to make money but to ensure food security. The NFA buys palay [unhulled rice] from farmers at a rather dated price and sells rice to consumers at a lower than market price.

Narrow layoffs

Among the options that the GOCCs could undertake to avoid abolition are: streamlining; privatize their assets; increase their fees; transfer their workforce, promotion and regulatory functions to welfare GOCCs; merge with other GOCCs; or convert into a regular government agency.

Roosevelt warned the employees of the GOCCs and GFIs that "there would be no mass layoffs resulting from the streamlining program.

"Our welfare [for those employees] are of major importance to us," said Roosevelt, who revealed last week a P80 billion "silver parachute" program to entice government employees to go into early retirement.

The plan includes the GOCCs assets on the heels of the government's drive to cut the fat off the generous pay-checks of directors and top managers in public corporations.

The initiative to fix subsidies and revenues of GOCCs is part of the cost-cutting measures the President outlined in "A Roadmap to Fiscal Stability and Fighting Poverty." The measures are aimed at generating P100 billion in additional savings.

She denies [an abundant] Congress to pass eight tax measures, including [an] Oil increase [the tax on "sin products," such as cigarettes and alcohol, to raise [80] billion.

Economists at the University of the Philippines had asserted that a likely rise in global interest rates would make it much costlier to repay the government's revenue debt, raising the risk of default in [several] future years' time. PHOTO cropped from AFP

Home financing agency chief vows turnaround

THE HEAD of the National Home Mortgage and Finance Corp. yesterday vowed to turn around the losing government-owned and -controlled corporation.

Celso de los Angeles, newly appointed president of the NHMFC, said he was ready to provide official data by using terms to the public and to address the institution's financial problems.

In a statement, De los Angeles said the P1.3 billion in losses the NHMFC incurred last year represented loss penalties that had been waived in accordance with Republic Act No. 8501, or the Housing Loan Contribution Act of 1998.

He said the home financing agency is cushioned as of Dec. 31, 2000 a total of P1.6 billion in loan penalties. If the amount was not waived, it would have contributed to the agency's income.

De los Angeles said the P2.3 billion in losses of the NHMFC as reported in the media recently must have unanimously included the P700 million in direct subsidy received last year by the agency from the government to finance loans for acquisition of low income and housing by the informal settlers under its Community Mortgage Program.

He said the P700 million was marked for lending to the home-less at that price could still be recovered from loans granted to the concessionaires run of 6 percent per annum. Of the amount, P61.6 million was released last year.

De los Angeles said the NHMFC was originally with the local finance system, Home Development Mutual Fund and cushion and banks of its Unified Home Lending Program (UHLP), which was implemented from 1998 to 1996, for the waiver off of some P2 billion in penalties.

De los Angeles said that while the NHMFC condoned the loan penalties of the housing loan borrowers of HDMF and Pag-Ibig Fund under the UHLP, NHMFC could not condone the penalties on the NHMFC loans.

Moreover, he said all government home financing institutions, including NHMFC, were barred from pursuing foreclosure proceedings under Executive Order No. 288, dated Aug. 9, 2004.

This inability to foreclose delinquent accounts and loan ill erodes the capital base of the agency, by their audited NHMFC's collection efficiency and ultimately its profitability. De los Angeles said. Newsman distributes

Ex-agri chief hits back . . .

From page A1

Secretary Luis Lorenzo said on Saturday he was eager for an investigation.

"I welcome it to prove that [the accusations] are false and intend to destroy my integrity," Lorenzo said.

But he wasn't waiting for a probe to say that he had spent small amount of the over-all-to-the pit that he was unlike have diffused from opulence [attached to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Lorenzo told the hearing exactly how much these voluntary expenditures amounted to, but later asked that the amounts be kept confidential, citing security reasons. Suffice it to say, he stressed, that it was a "significant part" of his personal savings.

The former agriculture secretary was said to have dumped P2.9 million in [one or] trips and over P500,000 in cell phone bills. He claimed that he had spent considerably more to serve his employers in his past three years in government, first as presidential adviser linked with powers of [big sure on Bicol jobs and then as agriculture secretary.

Fishnet

Reportedly the richest man in the town Cabinet, Lorenzo has a declared personal net worth of more than P500 million. His family owns Mascardo and the Lopezdoy Group of Companies—operators and distributors of food products, among other things. He is current chair of Land Bank of the Philippines.

Former leader and party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano Mandapat said Thursday that Lorenzo charged his phone bills to the Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corp., of which the agriculture secretary was also then. On the same day, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas secretary general Dindo Ramos said Lorenzo had made Quezon, a DA livelihood agency, pay his chartered flights connected with public functions of the DA.

Montano and Ramos had heard their allegations on Commission on Audit reports.

Denial

Lorenzo, once the chief of staff to the fund-use of the administration's food security campaign, denied that he had intended to defraud the government when he incurred the phone and travel expenses.

"[The money] was spent with the genuine interest of helping the agriculture sector—especially the farmers," he said.

To prove this point, Lorenzo said that during his OB term, the agriculture sector posted an highest growth rate in 18 years—an increase reached P 123 billion at the first half of 2004.

He insisted that he had paid P389,000 of the cell phone bills in question even before he had heard from the COA, which disallowed the expenses. He also pointed out: "[My accounts] make it appear that [the phone bills] were incurred in [a short a time. They were incurred over 36 months."

Field duty

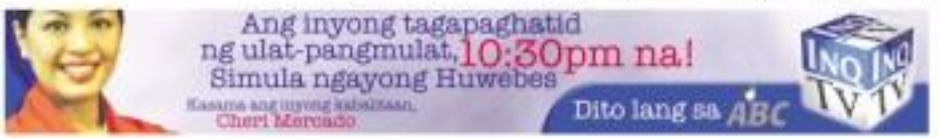
Because he was not in the field most of the time, he explained, he had to communicate with his staff and other people in the department mainly through cell phone. "If you computed the average per month, [the phone bills wouldn't] even reach P50,000," Lorenzo said.

As for his [trips] he said the country he said he had chartered flights only to destinations not accessible by commercial aircraft.

But more than the alleged nature of public funds, Lorenzo seemed to insist the criticism that he work had all scope to overstage—specifically, nothing for the income he was supposed to serve.

"I was on the job for less than 21 months," he lamented. "If you helped 11.5 million farmers and 20 million involved in the food sector ... there's still the [others] who'd say they weren't helped at all."

Apparently he was broken-hearted: "I wanted to do a lot more."



Corpus ends controversial AFP career

Front page 1

position or as an official in the Bureau of Intelligence Coordinating Agency.

"The former is too toxic for me, while the latter is too hot," the former chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines finally laughed.

Unmindful for the unexpected twists, Corpus cannot push moving from the military to the communist New People's Army to the ultra-right Reformist-wing Alyansang Makabansa.

"[He] joined the left but soon became a leftist, and joined the right but never became a rightist," a retired officer said of the man.

Even while in the "middle," Corpus, who graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 1967, was never known as to "neutral" places.

As Early Bird, Corpus launched an unpaid vapour the alleged criminal activities of Sen. Emilio Lacson. The charges have remained unsubstantiated.

Two years after graduating from the PMA, Corpus led a unit on the sentinel's scenery, carting away weapons which he delivered to the MIS. Two years later, in 1974, a disillusioned Corpus rolled up a PMA classmate and case endorsed.

In 1975, a military tribunal sentenced Corpus to death by murders for rebellion. Connected with him were opposition leader Sen. Benigno Aquino and RPA chief Bernabe "Commander Dante" Buscayno.

In November 1986, Corpus blew the whistle on a military plot to oust President Corazon Aquino, who had released him from jail months earlier. He hoped would force great Corpus executive clemency paving the way for his reinstatement in the military.

A recipient of two Distinguished Service Stars, two Bronze Cross Medals and various awards, the old soldier has no regrets over the many roads he has taken.

"When I made those decisions, I believed in my head. They were the right things to do," he said, referring to his decision to the 1960s, his move to abandon the leftist revolution, his decision to help overthrow President Joseph Estrada and his denunciation of Lacson.

"All my decisions, I thought, were the right paths to take at the time," he said.

"When I joined them [1969 rebellion], I was sincere, only to find out later that this decision led me to the farm door," Corpus said.

"I became disillusioned because of the Plaza Miranda bombing, I was told the bombing was done by the communists. I was told the communists were behind the Plaza Miranda bombing. It is a well-known fact of party history. Some cannot hide the real [from history]."

Lacson had denied the allegation.

Corpus also said the communist ideology was counter to his religious beliefs. There were other "injustices in the system" which he declined to talk about.

Corpus is not optimistic about the prospects of peace with the communist rebels.

"They will never threaten from the ground or ripple [with] they consider as the primary form of struggle. The parliamentary is only secondary in support of armed struggle," he said.

Corpus has no commander the success of peace talks with the rebels.

"We must defend them on the battlefield," he said. "They are just fooling the government with the negotiations. I don't think it will amount to anything."

Corpus said the Oakwood mutineers should not be given "fall-down" treatment.

"They should suffer the consequences of their actions or this [military adventurism] will just be repeated again and again."

Rosales warns gov't vs granting amnesty

Front page 1

take up arms again.

"We insist, the [gov't] had so many coup attempts," Manila Archbishop Emeritus Jaime Sin said. "... But if they are forgiven, it should be accompanied by a promise that it will not be repeated because coup attempts have been the biggest impediment to our progress."

Analysts have said the government's failure to severely punish military men behind the coup attempts from 1986 to 1989 had emboldened some 300 junior officers and enlisted men to order the Oakwood fiasco in a failed mutiny last year.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz last week raised the possibility of amnesty for the mutineers but Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez quickly squelched any such plan, saying the soldiers were already facing charges in court and were beyond any presidential act of pardon or amnesty.

"If the coups had stopped after the first attempt, we would have been very cooperative now," Rosales said in an interview at their day after celebrating Mass at the Palo Shrine.

"Now I ask, should we forgive again? Let us not forgive without an assurance that it will not be repeated. Don't!" the prelate said.

But the Rosales bloc was up to the government, he added.

Held at various detention centers, the mutineers fight boredom by reading newspapers and books, making listmodels and handcrafted bags, painting T-shirts and watching TV programs—from news to sitcoms and reality shows, such as "Kuha Challenge" and the Iranian telenovela "Mahwish."

The reading tastes of the so-called "Oak Tree 32" detainees range from "Wisdom of the Samurais," "40 Laws of Power," "Da Vinci Code" and "Selling Hitler" to "Gideon's Spies: Secret History of the Mossad," "The Art of War" and "The Purpose Driven Life."

And, of course, the Harry Potter series and Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

Some have cut out enrollment forms to negotiate advancements of living distance-learning education. Six have enrolled in business management and speech-writing courses.

Like anyone looking for the light at the end of the tunnel, all are optimistic they will see the open soon the armed forces.

"But we are still not compelled to [be middle-of-the-haunt]," an officer said.

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KILLING OF JOURNALIST

Moms of rob-slay suspects arrested

By Nancy C. Carvajal

IT IS now a family affair.

Police arrested yesterday the mothers of two key suspects in the killing of Today assistant business editor Jose Luis Villanueva, for forcing a 13-year-old boy to give false statements in favor of their sons.

The three suspects in the killing of Villanueva: Rommel Capuno, Henry Lisondra and Jayson Cordilo, are now detained at the Pasay City jail. No bail has been recommended for the three.

The boy, who was alone in store, told the Inquirer yesterday that the mother of Capuno, Nita, 39, and that of Cordilo, Lourdes, 52, talked to him Saturday morning and told him to lie for the suspects.

The boy, a neighbor of the two women in Barangay 30, Nilombot, Pasay City, said both women told him to tell the police that it was Lisondra who stabbed Villanueva during a bus robbery on the night of Sept. 23.

The false statement was apparently aimed at getting Capuno off the hook.

Earlier, three witnesses pointed to Capuno as the one who stabbed Villanueva.

Also, Lisondra, in a video confession, related that Capuno stabbed the victim in the neck after the latter refused to hand over a Nokia 7650.

The boy said the mothers of Capuno and Cordilo even offered him money. When he refused, they resorted to scaring him.

"Tinakot po nila ako na hindi na ako makakalabas ng bahay pag hindi ako sumunod. (They told me that I would no longer be able to go out of the house if I didn't comply)," the boy said.

Officers on case Senior Insp. Jessy Golardy said that at about 6 p.m. Saturday, the boy, with the mothers of the suspects, arrived at the Pasay police station.

The boy was then left by the mothers that the boy would be testifying that their sons were innocent.

However, when Golardo talked to the boy, the child admitted that he was only threatened by the mothers of Capuno and Cordilo to give a false statement.

The officials said he then informed the boy's mother, who later urgently decided to file charges against the two women.

Charges of violation of the Child Abuse and Exploitation Act were then immediately readied against the mothers of Capuno and Cordilo, who were detained at the Pasay police station.

As the charges were being prepared and as the lessons was talking to the boy and his mother, relatives of Capuno and Cordilo tried to post up on them.

In the presence of the lessons, the unidentified relatives, speaking in warm voices, told the boy and his mother to drop their plans of filing charges.

As they spoke, the boy sometimes looked at his mother.

They pursued the filing of charges before the Pasay City prosecutor's office last Thursday. The prosecutor for yesterday was to resume from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The murders of the prosecutor, the second suspicion that a ranking Pasay City official was trying to nail the alleged killers of Villanueva.

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MMDA goes after jeeps plying Edsa

By Margaux C. Ortiz

JEEPNEYS are not allowed to ply Edsa, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) reminded drivers yesterday.

"Jeepneys are not authorized to use Edsa because they do not have the franchise to do so," MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said in a phone interview.

Fernando said the jeepneys should use side streets, adding that only jeepneys crossing Edsa would be given leeway.

Drivers caught violating the policy will be fined P6,000 for the first out-of-line.

At the same time, Fernando told bus drivers to always bring the original certificates of public conveyance of the buses.

"Bus units without CPCs will be considered illegally operating and will be impounded," he said.

P150-M 'shrine for poor' rising in Quezon City

By Rainer C. Tatoles Jr.

THEY call it "church for the poor." And it will cost P150-million.

Others may frown at the irony but people supporting the construction of the Santuario de San Vicente de Paul (Shrine and Columbarium) could not be happier.

Work on the project began on May 9, 2003, with a budget of P500,000.

A year and two months later, more than P50 million have poured in and the money just keeps coming, project director Fr. Adilano Fajardo told the Inquirer yesterday.

The multi-million project is aimed at "touching our people to look at things in another way," Fajardo said.

Some groups criticize the project's huge cost, but he chose to look at the essence of the shrine, that is of giving people the hope they need.

He said the project symbolized the "power of believing in teamwork."

Also, Fajardo said the shrine would serve as the "venue for the rich to reach out to the poor."

The three-story sanctuary is within the six-hectare seminary grounds of the Diocesan Ashram in Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

The amphitheater-shaped shrine is on the upper ground floor. The columbarium and the wall would be plan-judgmentally famous saints.

Below the shrine is the columbarium, where a fountain with surrounding gardens will be built.

Each garden will have hundred of name where the cadaver could be placed.

Cremated remains are accepted for safekeeping at the columbarium. There are 9,000 available niches, with prices ranging from P50,000 to P75,000.

The third floor will house the offices.

Around the mausoleum are will mezzanine for value formation and housing assistance that will cater to poor members of the parish.

This way, the sanctuary would become the bridge between the rich and the poor, said Fajardo, who was hopeful the shrine would be finished next year.

Piglet came to be blessed

By Tarra V. Quismundo

BETTE some of her buddies, "Baby" paraded down the aisle of the lovely wooden church, behaved as she prepared to receive heaven's blessing.

The month-old piglet, dressed with a pink and red ribbon tied around her belly, quietly awaited her turn to be blessed during the first mass in the annual pet blessing at the Our Lady of Remedies Parish in Malate, Manila.

Baby was a standout. The only pig at the blessing, she caught the attention of kids and grownups who gathered to watch her as the other furry pets were blessed, or witness the pet's affair.

At past 7 a.m. yesterday, Baby, named after the straight-talking pig character in the movies, had her moment as the altar for a shower of holy water from Fr. John Luydini, Malate Church's parish priest.

Like the sluggish pig from Manila Zoo's Kinder Zoo, around 80 pets from all over Metro Manila turned up at the church to be blessed, a celebration of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, who loved animals.

Baldo after the blessing

"It has become a wonderful tradition yearly and it has caught on," said Boy Jr. Bellosa, a member of Old Manila Classics, an organization of Malate and Ermita residents who seemed to restore the district's community spirit.

Started in 1997, the pet blessing was supposed to be the opener of a yearlong series of community-oriented events at the church. But after initial successes, the group was forced to lay low for lack of funds.

Charges catch up with lawyer

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A LAWYER now faces criminal charges for the death of his wife almost two years ago, after the coroner's report has found evidence to nullify him.

John Bolivar, corporate counsel for the Energy Development Corporation of the Philippine National Oil Company, has been charged with murder for the death of his wife in 2002.

Through a resolution by state prosecutor Edwin Quiray, the Department of Justice found probable cause in luring Bolivar in court for allegedly drowning his wife around 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 23, 2002, in their house at 8 Salita Street, in Olivers, Tondo, Manila.

That day, Edith Bolivar was found dead inside the bathroom of the couple's bedroom.

Expressway mishap kills 2

By Ruth L. Navarro

TWO DEAD and six were injured in a multiple-vehicular collision along the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) in Sunsmat Heights, Mamplasan City, yesterday morning.

Driver Rami Cruz Tenjero, 39, and his passenger Soccel Abarintos, 27, from Calamba Village, San Pedro, Laguna, were declared dead on arrival at Capital ng Maynila.

Their Mitsubishi collided with plate number YRH 981, was sandwiched by/with a trailer bed truck and a trailer tractor head.

PSI Cmdr. Tomas said that at 2:20 a.m., Gonzalez Sipin, 40, was driving his trailer bed truck, with plate number UKF 109, on the south bound lane of the SLEX when he made a sudden stop.

Hit from behind

This forced the Mitsubishi of Tenjenero to hit his truck from behind.

Melchor Ale, 34, who was cruising behind Tenjenero in the trailer head failed to stop, hitting the Mitsubishi Galant, which was crushed between the two road giants.

Crushing instead, Ale's rig ran over to the opposite lane of the highway and collided head on with a southbound dump truck, injuring the driver and his two passengers.

Ale's passengers Jayson and Cherelyn Mallet are in critical condition at the Asian Hospital.

All drivers except Bupawere injured.

Ale will be charged with two counts of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide and six counts of multiple physical injuries and damage to property.

Senator says tougher laws needed vs cell phone theft

SEN. MANNY Villar, chair of the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs, said the rising number of cellular phone thefts called for stricter controls in the sale of mobile units.

"We have to stop looking at cell phone owners as simple cases of theft and robbery," said Villar, who noted that cell phone theft has emerged as one of the most serious crimes these days.

Recalling the tragic death of Today assistant business editor Jose Villanueva, the senator said, "People were killing for cell phones and people have died protecting them."

Based on police records, cell phone theft already accounts for over one-third of the reported 2,821 robbery cases nationwide during the first half of the year.

In a press statement, Villar said these figures grow at an alarming rate every day, considering that there are nearly 30 million cell phone subscribers in the country recognized as the "texting capital of the world."

Villar also said that the majority of cell phone thieves were drug users who sell or pawn the stolen cell phones to customers for drug addiction.

He added, "So the number of cell phone theft cases grows and the situation worsens, we should criminalize the altering or tampering of International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) and be more vigilant in apprehending the people or establishments who sell stolen units in the guise of second-hand cell phones."

The IMEI marking, put into place by the National Telecommunications Commission, did not deter cell phone thieves since electronic refurbishers merely can blocked a blocked cell phone unit. These "unblocked" stolen units are then sold as "used" or "reconditioned" cell phones.

He said the solution should not only be protected from cell phone theft but also from refurbished cell phones being sold nationwide, most of which are stolen units.

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Retirement an option for Malone

LOS ANGELES—Karl Malone is "somewhere leaned" but he has left the door ajar for a return to the National Basketball Association more his injuries heal, player agent Dwight Manley said.

"He's not closing any doors but he's going in a different direction right now, obviously in retirement leaned," Manley told the Los Angeles Times.

"If he wanted to play today he wouldn't say no. He will be open to the future."

The 40-year-old Los Angeles Lakers all-star is recovering from right knee surgery and no timetable has been revealed for exactly when he will be ready to play, Manley said.

Malone is a 14-time all-star and is the second leading scorer in NBA history. He told Lakers owner Jerry Buss he would play for Los Angeles if he decided to play again.

The Lakers open their training camp next Tuesday in San Diego. Their first pre-season match is Oct. 11 against Seattle in Anaheim and they begin the season on Nov. 2 by hosting Denver. AFP

ICTSI-La Salle rejoins PBL Open tourney

A SPOKESMAN, talent and manager ICTSI-La Salle squad returns to the Philippine Basketball League (PBL) for the season-ending Open Championship set to start on Oct. 23.

After regaining the MAAP crown at the expense of Old Spice of the Batang Gilas, ICTSI-La Salle has been tapped this early as one of the teams to host along with perennial rivals Welcoat Paints and Mindanao Pioneers.

Dave Angeles, officials are excited over the comeback of ICTSI-La Salle.

"Aside from their traditional rivals, the Ateneo Eagles, the archers have to compete themselves with the Taiwanese we expected to get very entertained," said Commissioner Glenn Dandan.

Five-time champions Welcoat won the Holy Cup over Welcoat Paints, in finals rematch the case of PBL Tournament, giving coach-to-member Mark Caldoza revenge before losing.

WORLD GOLF

Els still 2 shots up

DUBLIN, Ireland—Ernie Els stayed on track for a maiden World Golf Championship title with a four-under-par 68 in the WGC-American Express Championship third round on Saturday.

The world No. 3 managed to overcome a wet start to the PGA Tour's Montreal tournament to reach June, ended his other day of solidly flawless with two-stroke lead of the field.

South African Els, who would on play Tiger Woods in the game's two top-ranked players by winning this week, missed five birdies with a bogey to finish on 13-under 203 in a rain-soaked Ballantrae.

"I've got to be happy with the score I shot, I grinded out a 68," said the 34-year-old. He after playing through bogey-free, closing with and getting single birdie. "I was a little off here and there but I got the ball up and down when I needed to.

"I made some better shots at the end there, on 17 and 18, and hopefully I can take that into tomorrow."

Denmark's Thomas Bjorn, after playing five 66, was alone in second place with British Open champion Todd Hamilton, Ireland's Padraig Harrington and Britain's David Howell, a further shot back at 6-in third at 12 under.

Hamilton returned a 69 while Harrington, urged on by his home galleries, and Howell carded something two.

Defending Champion Woods, a doubtful starter for the tournament after sustaining his shoulder last week slipping awkwardly on a flight to Colombia, returned a second successive 70 to be seven off the pace.

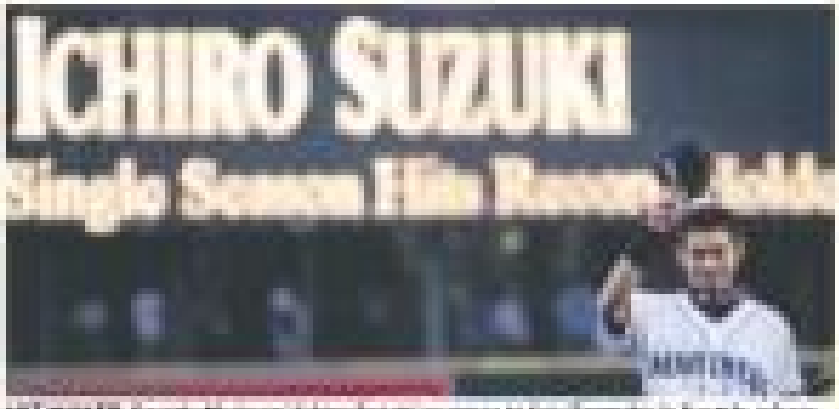
The eight-time major winner, bidding for his third successive WGC-American Express Championship title and fourth in all, was one over for the day after seven holes but picked up three shots after the turn to finish two shots of eight-behind.

"I'm going to need some help tomorrow and I understand the weather is supposed to be terrible," said the 28-year-old American.

"But it's still some shots back, which is a long way back, especially when Ernie is playing the way he is."

Els, two strokes ahead overnight following his brilliant 66 on Friday, stayed in front with birdies at the par-four fifth and par-five eighth, relieve for such a pressure putt. always

ANCHORED Mark Calcavecchia lunges for his tee shot during the first round of the Bank of America Colonial golf tournament at Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth, Texas, on May 27. Calcavecchia is one stroke off the lead in the tournament after the first round. AP



ICHIRO! Seattle Mariners right fielder Ichiro Suzuki gestures as fans cheer during a game against the Texas Rangers in Seattle, Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2004. Suzuki broke George Sisler's single-season hit record Friday night. AP

Miriam cagebelles stay alive

MIRIAM College forced a fight another day as it topped Cebu's Sacred Heart University, 84-65, Saturday to stay in the hunt for a semifinal seat in the WNCAA 2004 season women basketball tournament at the St. Scholastica's gym.

Kleiven, rebuilt total CBU at 6-3, must have semifinalist Lyceum in the Binalbagan duel of the championship and hope for a Blue Dolphins-Lyceum Gateway (7-2) win over CBU to avoid the complication of a three-way tie.

St. Scholastica's College closed out its campaign with a 4-8 record over Kolehiyo Agusan's College to exciting victory at 6-7.

Meanwhile host Holy Trinity College Alabang also won (4-5), over University of Asia & the Pacific.

In volleyball, defending champion Lyceum completed its 12-game sweep of the elims after dismantling PSU, 25-20, 25-18, 25-19.

Palos Verdes grabs big Sta. Lucia lead

RIVET club Palos Verdes Town is used a strong performance to emerge the crossover provisional Group B leader of the first batch of games in the first leg of the Sta. Lucia Town Executive-wide weekend.

Reg. Tim Gerald Galicia, star wing Tim continued his 200 points to pull away from Eagle Ridge 11, which managed only 204, and Alta Vista 11 (147).

The battle to the other crossover was tight with a revitalized Orchard asking the Group B lead through on Town 2 and Alta Vista 1 closing the race to Group B by close margins in the Tiny sponsored by Globe Platinum.

Coal Mercado, Joseph Herrera and Eden Tirol rocked their kid for scoreless Group 1 tilts with 141 points on the two and 138 that were the 4,294 first partners, one point up on old Korean Eagle Ridge Town 1.

Palos Verdes 1 followed a explosive on the big-looking 107-point effort of Mercedes Tiles and settled for third at 204.

Orchard looks poised to secure first in crossover down last year to Mirabella Lisa, Luis Bustamante, Robert Reyes and Ric Nieto posted 340 points on rounds of 122-1,294 to slip ahead by one over the Bobby Bautista/Mel Vera Town 4.

Also sponsoring this year's four-per Samsung, Canon, Globe, Fuego and Philgem Arthurs while Metro Pride (Green), Blanco (Cebu) and The Bellevue (Manila) are partial hosts.

Atty. Eduardo Angeles of Tiles commissioner Summit Drive served a 99-shot handicap him as the Class I individual leader by six over Palos Verdes Ronald Galicia and Jing Tim.

Tiles took a two-point lead over Ayala Estate after Mass 2 in Class A while Bobby Miles/Walter Bautista by an over Commander Wilbert Lee and Boat in by six with the 96-point total in Zone B.

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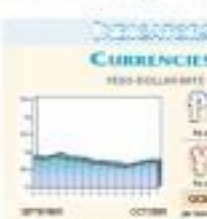
BSP survey: Consumer confidence weak



By Doris C. Dumlao

LOCAL consumer confidence took weak dives July to September due to worries over shrinking household earnings, but would likely pick up over the next 12 months starting the fourth quarter of this year, a new Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas survey showed.

The BSP, which conducted its own first consumer expectations survey (CES) in the first week of July, collaborated with the Bureau of Statistics Office to supplement its quarterly business expectations survey. The new CES survey was based on five components: household financial status, level of family income, and economic conditions of the country.

Based on the third quarter survey, half of the sample households in the Metro Manila/Suburbs consider their present economic situation as "worse," 46.5 percent "unlike" and only 0.5 percent "better" compared to a year ago. This is reflected in a negative 46.5-percent BSP consumer index, computed as a share of households that answered in the affirmative less the share of those who replied in the negative for a given indicator.

A negative 10 indicates an unfavorable view, except for unemployment, interest rate and inflation rate where a negative 10 indicates the opposite.

Respondents expected their family income to decline by an average of 4.3 percent compared to a year ago.

The major concern of respondents with negative expectations during the third quarter were the lack of work or permanent work, decreasing income, low salary high cost of living, personal indebtedness, and graft and corruption in the government.

On the other hand, those with positive expectations during the quarter anticipated increases in domestic and overseas income, wages, employment and savings.

"Still the expected decline in rates in the third quarter of 2004, respondents were cautious in purchasing goods during the period," BSP Officer-in-Charge Armando Tanzon said in a statement.

Based on the buying conditions index, he noted that only three out of 10 people households thought it was a good time to buy assets like a house and/or lot, consumer durables and motor vehicles.

Anticipating a moderate rise in income in the next 12 months, families and respondents would remain prudent in their decision on big assets.

About two out of 10 households either intended or were undecided whether to buy a house and/or lot, consumer durable or motor vehicle in the next 12 months. Most respondents intended to buy consumer durables than house and/or lot or motor vehicles.

Those who thought favorably about buying conditions said the continuous expected prices of the items at reasonable with good income earners. In addition, 47 percent of those who planned to buy motor vehicles intended to use them for business while 10 percent would use them as rent-out vehicles for their families.

On the other hand, respondents who considered it a bad time to buy any of these assets said they had "no money, no savings, assets have high prices, and items such as these are not given priorities.

From a negative 46.5 percent level in the third quarter, consumer expectations for the fourth quarter showed an improvement at negative 0.1 percent as one component of the index, level of family income, turned positive compared to the third quarter where all three components registered negative readings.

For the fourth quarter, family income was estimated to rise by an average of 0.6 percent, increasing further to an average of 3.9 percent a year ahead. This was a reversal of the trend been expected in the third quarter.

With the expected improvement in...

P2-B GOV'T LOANS

LRTA debt conversion set

By Michelle V Rarus

LRT trains

THE NATIONAL government intends to convert into equity some P2 billion in government loans to the Light Rail Transit Authority, believing the move was practical considering the uncertainty of whether the LRTA could still afford to repay the borrowings.

Finance Undersecretary Hilarion Ocampo said the DOF would come to old proposal to Congress to increase the authorized capital of the LRTA so that the national government could place more equity into the mass-transport agency.

As of December 2003, LRTA authorized capital stood at P5 billion. The national government's advances in the agency have already been used P3.4 billion as of Aug. 31 this year. Advances cover the amount of any loan borrowings of a state-owned company that the national government agrees to shoulder and collect later from the company.

Ocampo said the DOF had been pushing for a bill that would increase the authorized capital of the LRTA several years ago, but Congress

Gov't eyes VAT on bus, jeepney operators

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is considering placing the public-transport industries—including jeepney and bus operators—under the value-added tax system to complement moves to impose VAT on petroleum products.

According to Finance Undersecretary Cielito Tria, the DOF was studying the possibility of imposing VAT on top of the current percentage tax, on public transport carriers to allow them to use the input-output tax mechanism under the VAT system.

Since the imposition of VAT on petroleum products will increase their operating cost, public transport operators could be allowed to partly or fully recover the additional expenses to be caused by the 10-percent VAT on petroleum through the tax system's input-output mechanism.

Under this scheme, a business owner is allowed to deduct as input credit the amount of VAT he or she paid for materials necessary

GenSan tuna firms: Models of Mindanao business

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CONGRATULATIONS to the HON. EDGAR GEN Federation of Fishing and Allied Industries, Inc. (EFFAI) for the successful conduct of the 6th National Tuna Congress, held once again at the capacious Family Country Hotel and Convention Center in Koronadal town City on Sept. 2 and 3.

The conference was national in scope—attended by all the major tuna players from Zamboanga, Navotas, and even some from neighboring countries. We all learned and got inspired.

Last month, the world marked the Sept. 11 tragedy. I will love Gordon Ind to were wished 9-11 a few years back, when bombs went off in some mentioned public places, setting a pall of gloom in the once bustling city.

Flashback to 1981... right after the bombings commenced—soon on the decline, the members revisited multi-and department stores, and companies returned their vehicles complements, and soldiers to full battle gear roamed the city.

The Federal law made (don't scare of that, however, sailors to brazed the threat of further attack and made sure that the 5th Maritime Tuna Congress would push through. The confluence moved would probably succumb to the fear of joining such a gathering, with all the major business leaders convening in one place—a tempting target for even the dullest bomber who couldn't hit the broad side of a barn.

Transcribe below, all glorious big and small—from the Federation's head honcho, Dominga Trog, to dainty stalwart like Marlene Tan, Rodrigo Rivera, and Paul Candelaria, fishing companies and cannery owners, members of the academe, community peoplepower operators, small fishermen, government officials, to the private personnel manning the exhibits—got to see the set.

It was the first time since the bombings that a major gathering took place in the city—and it was like a shaft of light that penetrated the dark.

Fast forward to the present. Gensan is up and running again.

There is a new international flight and an route to Indonesia (ILT may say so, the links have weakened.

MINDANAOWORLD

Joji Nagum-Bian

one tier in the BARM. A spending new mall has been built. Commerce throbs downtown, as well as in the fish and seaports of the country's tuna capital.

There is a strong sense of order as the city maintains tight security measures without being blatant.

A major factor, of course, is the tuna industry which provides direct employment to roughly 30,000 people in the area and contributes 4 percent to the country's GNP.

The winners in the federation, which has enabled the tuna industry to sail through rough seas.

On its part, the federation has made initiatives to ensure sustainability of the country's industry through by forging bilateral agreements with the Pacific Island Nations (PIFs) and Indonesia.

It has manifested its commitment to the Convention on Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Species in the Western and Central Pacific. It also supports Presidential Proclamation No. 756, establishing the Lamagan Bay as a protected area.

It has also issues that the federation, through its various executive director, Sely Lim, has been instrumental in the success of the Philippines-Australia Quality TUFF Program (PAQTVEP). They will support the project, which aims to establish a model crystal Tech for Education and Training System for the agricultural and fisheries industry.

This year, the federation expectedly would pursue its application for inclusion in the US Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), to that repertoire of tuna products found for the US may avail of tariff liberties—as exemplified by countries like Thailand, which had benefited in one time for 'long ever since it took over his duties to the Export Development Council (EDC).

Through the 6th Tuna Congress, the Federation has requested government to help boost the industry through the passage of House Bill No. 2299, which allows for duty free importation of fishing vessels, gear, and other necessary equipment.

It says industry deserves such a tax break, it should be the tuna industry as it has consistently shown its mettle in promoting growth, contributing to regional and national development, and penchant for sustainability and self-regulation.

It is good that the industry has champions like the DA Undersecretary Tessie Ordoñez and Senator Mar Roxas.

We hope that the rest of our national leaders take cognizance of the fighting spirit of the tuna industry and help it to thrive.

(Joji Nagum-Bian is a young advocate for Mindanao; she is vice chair of the Mindanao Commission On Women and Assistant Core Board chair of the Mindanao FREE member of the Export Development Council and former chair of the Mindanao Business Council. Email comments to jojibian@yahoo.com.)

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Gov't urged to tap workers abroad in promoting RP

By Rosvel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT must create a strategy on tapping nurses and doctors working abroad to provide the country as a destination for outsourcing health and medical services.

Henry I. Schumacher, executive vice president of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, estimated that there are about 70,000 nurses in the United Kingdom alone and maybe a thousand in the entire Germany.

During an interview, Schumacher said that out of the 8 million or so Filipinos working overseas, there were about 500,000 health care and medical professionals who could help the government promote the country.

"These are professionals who have easily made a lot of patients happy in those countries," Schumacher said. "They would be the best ambassadors who can tell Europeans that there are many professionals like them back home, where services are more affordable than in Europe."

Although there is no large-scale movement of European health care workers to Asian destinations at the moment, expert something like this to happen in the future, Schumacher said, citing the rising costs, overburdened public health care systems and aging populations in most European countries.

"Countries like India, Thailand and Singapore have caught on to this," Schumacher said. "We hope the Philippines should realize that health care and medical service would be an important business to look into."

He said that in 2000 alone, the three Asian countries attracted more than 400,000 patients and generated some $600 million in revenues.

But Schumacher said that while service infrastructure was more advanced in India, Thailand and Singapore, the Philippines still had an advantage be in "pockets of English-speaking areas."

From then, the government should ensure that the quality of services for doctors, health professionals and nurses be maintained.

"There will surely be a rush to put up schools, and it is happening now," Schumacher said.

"This may lead to a decline in the quality of graduates, he added.

Aside from that, the ECCP official said the country needed to address its image problems on health and hygiene, as well as peace and stability.

"There is also a need to accredit Philippine hospitals with public health care systems in the United States, Europe and Japan, and with private sector health insurance providers."

LRTA debt . . .

(From page B1)

tided to legislate the proposal. He said the DOF could again make a draft bill on the proposal and push for its legislation after it was voted out her in the Senate.

During deliberations by the Senate on the proposed 2005 national government budget last Wednesday, Sen. Ejercito asked why the advances of LRTA from the national government were still being booked as liabilities, instead of capital, when the LRTA previously seemed a lucrative (B-Tk could not pay the government back.

Ongoing said the DOF would be preparing a draft bill to remove the LRTA as dividend capital of the LRTA to pave the way for the conversion of the government's advances into equity.

The Senator added also said the DOF should do the same with its advances to other government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) that were having difficulty in paying from their loans.

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NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

HOSPITALIA ACTIVE OF HEALTH (PHILIPPINES), INC., a corporation duly incorporated and existing under Philippine laws with principal office at 4/F, Fortune Bldg., Legaspi Village, Makati City, hereby serves notice that on June 15, 2004, the stockholders and the board of directors of said corporation, with a legal quorum respectively acting through a special meeting duly called in accordance with its By-Laws, have resolved to Articles of Incorporation by shortening its corporate life effective October 31, 2004, subject to approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

(Sgd.) HILARIO C. VENUS, III
Corporate Secretary

Foreign firms seek gov't guarantee on validity of BOT contracts

By Russell W. Domingo

THE EUROPEAN Chamber of Commerce last week expressed support for the government's move in pushing for amendments to the Build-Operate-Transfer law.

ECCP executive vice president Henry J. Schumacher said in an interview that, in particular, business foreign groups wanted the law to ensure that contracts would be honored, and that the judicial courts would not touch [illegible deals].

"There has to be more guarantee against the unpredictability of the Supreme Court changing the rules," Schumacher said. "We want the law to state that contracts are valued in the country."

He said this was a general sentiment among foreign business groups, including the Japanese and the Americans.

"The risks we can get from infrastructure firms to invest in the Philippines, but such firms want some positive signals like the opening of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3," he added.

Neda [illegible] has [illegible] subsidy of Singapore since the Supreme Court ruled in May 2003 that all the contracts related to the project were void, stating those violated the BOT law.

Concessionaire Piatagan AG, a Germany firm, had sought arbitration with the International

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RP lures $421M in 'hot money'

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES raked in $421.1 million worth of net foreign portfolio investments or "hot money" in the first nine months of the year, 4 percent lower than the inflow posted a year ago, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported.

BSP officials in Chicago to attend Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank said the net inflow for the January-September period was the lowest since 1997, when the country was hit by the Asian financial crisis.

The BSP said the net inflow of foreign portfolio investments for the nine months ended September 30 was 76 percent lower than the $1.7 billion recorded in the same period last year.

Net inflow for the third quarter alone was $121.4 million, 58 percent lower than the $290.5 million recorded in the second quarter.

The BSP said the net inflow of foreign portfolio investments for the nine months ended September 30 was 76 percent lower than the $1.7 billion recorded in the same period last year.

Net inflow for the third quarter alone was $121.4 million, 58 percent lower than the $290.5 million recorded in the second quarter.

Fiscal incentives

NO FREE LUNCH
Cielito F. Habito

Of all the major culprits for the current fiscal crisis is the huge amount of foregone revenues from fiscal incentives of all sorts. These take the form of outright tax exemptions, income tax holidays, tax credits and reduced taxes for designated beneficiary firms or industries. The government continuously throw to have been worth P741 billion over the last five years, and P175 billion for the year 2003 alone. With a targeted national government budget deficit of P190 billion, most of it could have already been made up for by these revenues lost due to fiscal incentives.

The call, then, has been to "rationalize" fiscal incentives, and a corresponding bill has been filed in Congress by no less than House Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. in part of the administration measures to address the fiscal crisis.

Culture of exemptions

Given the sheer number fiscal incentives granted to various types of enterprises or economic activities, it would seem that in our economy, tax exemptions are the rule rather than ... well, the exception. Hence economic affairs committee chair Rep. Joey Salceda recently remarked that Filipinos seem to have a culture of exemptions. Everyone can think of a good reason why he or his sector should be allowed to pay less than the usual amount of taxes due, or no taxes at all. And the rationalizations put in, they actually get it, thanks to the lawmakers who are only too willing to oblige. And all too eager to vote industries votes. Hence, there are now at least 130 existing laws and statutes that grant significant fiscal incentives to various types of enterprises or transactions.

Who gets there?

Of the P175 billion lost to incentives, the single biggest chunk, P157 billion, is attributed to the tax and duty exemptions (P9.51 billion) and income tax holiday (P5 billion) granted under RA 7916 or the PEZA law to firms in export processing zones. These are the incentives identified as needed to attract foreign investors into the country. The second biggest item (P3.6 billion) is attributed to tax subsidies granted under EO 93 to certain government corporations, notably NIA (P97 billion), LBP (P638 million) and a sprinkling of others. Other tax incentives go to GOCCs, the BOI, PEA, the Tourism Special Economic Zone, Pagcor, the National Museum, National Dairy Authority, and the Cooperatives, to name a few. Also benefiting are labor unions, cooperatives, jewelry industry exports, investors in coal mining of PhI, Cebu Pacific and Aboitiz, fishing vessel importations, and a host of many others. Add to this the exemptions from the VAT enjoyed by lawyers, doctors and other professionals, breeding chickenpox, book and magazine publishers, and many others. These are more examples out of a long list that takes Salceda nine thin-print Powerpoint frames to show his audiences.

Attracting investors

Fiscal incentives need not be bad if they yield benefits that outweigh the costs to the economy in the form of foregone revenues. Do they? At this time when the cash-strapped government is passing around the hat (not to help narrow its deficit, this question begs to be asked, item by item).

The biggest chunk is lost to investors meant to attract investors. This has been a perennial debate between DOF and DTI. DOF worries about the magnitude of directly foregone revenues. DTI argues that this revenue we lose now will be more than repaired from other tax collections that will pour with multiplied economic activities resulting from the attracted investments. What's right? Unfortunately, it has not been possible to verify this quantitatively, as even the best economic models find it difficult to attribute actual economic growth to specific policy variables, especially at the structural reinvestment keeps changing. The other issue is as to whether the incentives are even critical in attracting those investments. Critics point to the numerous studies and surveys that have shown other factors (e.g. infrastructure, peace and order, political stability) to be higher up in the list of factors determining the decision of investors on whether or not to locate here. Proponents argue that we need to at least align our incentives with our neighboring competitors ; do not believe that Thailand will ever be united dollar-wise.

Pandora's box

Other incentives are justified on the basis of a wide range of political, social or (often overlooked) economic grounds. An examination of the long list of exemptions makes this immediately apparent. Many of the economic justifications amount to giving preferential treatment to identified "winners" (e.g. publishing, jewelry, coal mining). Even those economists are always wary of due to the economic distortions that results, as against a situation with a level playing field. The whole system has become a Pandora's box that it can't simply be closed. Complex, fragmented, inefficient and administratively ready to implement. As such, it has been prime to abuse (i.e. fraudulent claims, "double-dipping") and has permitted "incentive shopping" as investors jostle for incentives to locate close to the 1990s, I used to get a regular report from the Tariff Commission, a Swiss attached agency, on incentive landmarks. The reports consistently showed about half of the enrollments to have been spurious or without valid basis.

Culture of exemptions? Bingo. Maybe I'll start a lobby for tax exemptions for newspaper columnists. Who knows...with the sheer number of us around, we just might get it.

Comments welcome at chabito@mozcom.com

Foreign firms seek ...

From page B1

Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes.

Schumacher said that as long as the Terminal 3 lease was not resolved, regardless of who was found at fault, there might never be new infrastructure investments from foreigners.

"This is a sizable sign that BOT does not work under the current system. I can't see any BOT project that has not gone sour," he said.

The official noted that while the Terminal 3 contracts were voided, other BOT projects such as those in the power sector were subjected to renegotiation.

"Thus is ironic because the Philippines made a basic and lauded in the front pages of newspapers around the world when the BOT law was passed. It was a groundbreaking event."

The first BOT law, RA No. 6957, was enacted in 1990 and brought into the local power sector investments amounting to $2.68 billion.

RA 7718 later amended the original law to increase private sector investment to infrastructure. In the five years up to 1999, around of $15.76 billion in private sector capital was made in the power, transport, water, information and communication technology and property development.

BSP survey . . .

From page B1

ment is family income and the rise in prices of goods and services in the fourth quarter, family spending and the economic could rise by an average of 1.3 percent during the period. Food and electric bills are expected to dominate their household expenditure.

"Based on these expectations, it is likely that the growth rate in personal consumption expenditures would increase modestly starting in the fourth quarter and will continue for the next 12 months," Inciong said.

Within the next 12 months, respondents in new establishments, respondents expected greater stability in prices, power cost, household income, jobs and investment. Crime rate is expected to decline," he added.

However, the survey showed that unemployment and interest rates were expected to rise and the peso to weaken in the next 12 months.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only

STANDARD INSURANCE CO., INC.
The Insurance Standard

(The Cooperative Partner of Zurich Financial Services)

Standard Insurance Co., Inc. reissued on September 21, 2004 its consolidated audited financial statements for the years 2003 and 2002 to fully conform with the generally accepted accounting principles in the Philippines (GAAP). Corresponding, the Report of Independent Auditors, SGV & Co., states:

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Standard Insurance Co., Inc. and its subsidiaries as of December 31, 2003 and 2002, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the Philippines.

Presented below are the financial highlights for the year-ended December 31, 2003 of the reissued consolidated financial statements of Standard Insurance Co., Inc. and Subsidiaries, and those of eStandard Insurance Corporation (formerly Zurich General Insurance Philippines, Inc.), one of the wholly-owned subsidiaries.

	Reissued Consolidated	eStandard Insurance
Net Premiums Income	1,251,062,209	865,876,637
Premiums earned	1,216,193,371	160,108,536
Net Underwriting Income	347,890,036	117,424,923
Net Income	159,646,386	46,092,942
Total Assets	2,297,319,129	953,622,502
Total Liabilities	1,545,444,777	160,814,228
Stockholder's Equity	751,734,348	312,801,324
Capital Stock	600,000,000	250,000,000

(The consolidation of eStandard Insurance was effected in December 1, 2003 and the columnar figures are for eDECEMBER. However, the consolidated net profit/net income, profit/loss earned and net underwriting income would indicate the group's overall revenues.)

Standard Insurance would like to extend its apology if the company's past audited financial statements qualified by its auditors under GAAP may have been misinterpreted or have misled the public in general, its clients and financial institutions. Standard Insurance previously agreed to its auditors' qualification on its audited financial statements in adherence to transparency and full disclosure. The qualified audited financials were never intended to mislead or misinform the public in any way.

Standard Insurance is committed to continuously improve the quality of service to the insuring public by raising the standards of competency and professionalism, and through integrity.

STANDARD INSURANCE CO., INC., The Insurance Standard has the highest Paid-up Capital in the industry at P600,000,000.00. Standard is the Insurance leader rated by Standard & Poor's, Accredited with most Banks & Financial Institutions. Quality Management System ISO 9000:2001 Certified. Widest branch network located in key cities of the country. The leader in Motorcar Insurance and a Major Player in Casualty Insurance. The only insurance company with its own Technical Department which provides Technical Assistance all over the country.

Metrobank to the rescue

METROBANK has stepped in to find its director Jaime Ardalen out of the P32.5-million scam perpetrated on him by a car salesman.

According to the grapevine, no less than Metrobank president Antonio Abacan has called the various parties to a meeting this afternoon in an effort to settle the competing claims amicably.

Alfonso, the chair of the bank's risk management committee, is facing stiffer complaints from a car dealer who received bad personal checks in payment for a Land Cruiser Prado, a BMW 745i, and a BMW X5.

To those who may have failed to read Friday's column, Alfonso, a former president of the Asian Institute of Management, schemed to issuing four pre-signed blank checks to Anthony Borrigo, owner of the fat Speed car accessories shop in The Fort, to cover for alleged over-collect expenses and mileages.

As it turned out, the Batangas court problem of Alfonso had left him a volume perpetrated by Borrigo, who instead used the checks to acquire the brand-new luxury vehicles from another dealer.

The first of the four checks, for P4 million, cleared and went to pay for the X5 sports utility vehicle. But the rest bounced, but not after Borrigo had already taken possession of the two other more expensive cars and subsequently resold or mortgaged them.

After his name appeared in this column Friday, Finance AV Lorenzo called up to clarify that he was merely trying to mediate among the parties involved so he knew both buyer and seller as well as the middleman.

Lorenzo said he does not know the salesmanship now of either Borrigo or the Mercedes, but had told that the spoon couple, which Borrigo was trying to dispose of for P20 million—as against the manufacturer-suggested retail price of P281,400—had been purchased a third party for only P7 million.

The missing yellow Mercedes-Benz S280 is now being displayed in front of the Ali Speed car accessories shop, right past the Mercedes-Benz dealership, in The Fort.

Not only did it attract the attention of passing motorists, but also that of motoring magazines Top Gear and CS, which both featured the Italian superb car, apparently the only Mercedes in the country today, in their December issues.

Coincidental, BPE sat Alfonso, now a Ramon Magsaysay awardee in 1996, when Alfonso received the award in his behalf.)

P132-Mhouse

DECORON is auctioning a P132.75-million starting price, one of the most expensive house and lot packages in the country today.

The house property is a 1,217.91-sq.m. house on a one-hectare lot in Ayala Alabang's Aviara Avenue.

At the asking price, the cost of the house and lot effectively translates to a reasonable P1,220 a square meter.

Corobank is even willing to accept a 30-day payment plan for the property, at 12-percent down and 11-percent interest.

Bank officials declined to discuss the provenance of the property, according to the properties, it used to be the residence of the late Commissioner Angel Lagman Jr. of the Metro-area Securities and Exchange Commission.

Aviara, incidentally, is home to the Zobels, the Ayalas, the Madrigals, and the Aramburus, where the subdivision lots are in the 10,000-square-meter size. Two members of the republic Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Rodolfo Aboitiz, also maintain their official residences along the gilded avenue.

(Confidential: The two-upper Le Triangle penthouses that SS-Bank is trying to unload used to belong to the family of Rolando

CONTINUED ON A2

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

BPI fails in bid to buy Indon bank

By Doris C. Dantico

THE ASIAN Bank of the Philippine Islands and 21 of its other senior executives left out of the race for a controlling stake in PT Bank Internasional Indonesia (BII), Indonesia's fourth largest bank.

BPI executive vice president Aurelio Montinola III said the bank had teamed up with its domestic bank, Unionbank, Ubs-based Rothschild and Temasek Holdings of Singapore to bid for Bank Internasional, which is being privatized.

"We were not included in the shortlist," he told reporters in an interview.

Up for grabs was a 51-percent interest in the Jakarta-based bank valued at about $350 million. After the recent shortlisting of bidders, the winner is expected to be announced by December.

Montinola had more than 100 items for his closeness and 29 million rupiahs of assets as the end of 2003. The Indonesian government, which controls 97 percent of the bank, also plans to unload a 20-percent stake through the stock market later this year.

Nevertheless, Montinola said BPI was proud to have been invited by these foreign institutions to be part of their consortium and noted that the bank could make use of a similar licensing with these other opportunities in the future.

Analysts said Indonesia, except for BII, which is an all-capital bank, looks to the Philippines have a slim chance to expand overseas because of the high cost of domestic funds.

Regulatory issues seen to delay Smart's acquisition of Piltel

By Cynthia S. Balino

THERE has been a delay in Smart Communications Inc.'s acquisition of 92 percent of Filipino Telephone Corp. from the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Smart is originally set to complete its acquisition of 92 percent of Piltel from PLDT by the end of September.

"This has the timetable set by the group when Piltel obtained the go-ahead of its shareholders last Sept. 3 to increase its authorized capital to P12.8 billion from P3.1 billion.

But according to Napoleon Nazareno, PLDT and Smart president, they were still awaiting all the necessary approvals and that completing the task by yearend was more realistic.

Nazareno, over the weekend said they did not want to set a target for consolidating Piltel and Smart books by the end of the third quarter because of new accounting standards that the PLDT group had adopted.

"We are still getting all the regulatory approvals," said Nazareno in an interview. "The real September timetable was no optimistic target. It turned to non-realistic."

Smart would own 92 percent of Piltel after converting the latter's P preferred shares into common shares followed by the purchase of PLDT's remaining common Piltel shares.

"Once we own 92 percent of Piltel, we are going to slowly align the operations of Smart and Piltel," clarified Nazareno after the stockholders meeting on Sept. 3. "We would let Piltel take advantage of the growth especially from the lower segment of the market."

Smart is buying 92 percent of Piltel from PLDT. The acquisition is expected to cost some P8 billion. The first is the purchase of 19 billion shares, 8 convertible preferred shares equivalent to about 47 percent. The second is followed by the acquisition of 787 million common shares equivalent to about 45 percent.

As of Sept. 3, Smart had committed 4.625 billion of the preferred shares into 925.25 million common shares equivalent to a 37.5 percent stake. At that time, PLDT continued to hold 58.5 percent.

However over the weekend declined to elaborate as to what had caused the delay, but the impact it would have on the plan to shift a bigger portion of Talk N' Text revenue to Piltel.

A source from Piltel said there were no more approvals that needed to be secured.

"Maybe it was just a matter of timing," the source said.

Currently, Smart gets half of Piltel's revenues from Talk N' Text, after the former showed Piltel access to the board network. Last year, Piltel's cellular phone revenues reached about P9 billion, in the first half. Piltel and Smart split about P5.4 billion in sales.

Nazareno said on Sept. 3 that the changes requested within the fourth quarter would enable Piltel to post substantial profits and to utilize billions of pesos in tax credits incurred from years of operating at losses.

However earlier said he was worried that Piltel's financial performance in the third quarters was affected by weakness in the foreign exchange. The peso hit a new low of P56.40 last week.

But despite second-quarter Rin may affect the company's performance, Nazareno said that the company would likely meet its revenue/income target of P1.1 to P1.2 billion for this year, up from its earlier forecast of about P800 million.

"Our income in the third quarter may slow down due to foreign exchange," said Nazareno, referring to the Piltel. "But it is temporary and there are uncertainties we have to overcome for us to be able to make any forecasts."

He could not say whether Piltel announced during the current quarter the off-cap performance of the first quarter of 2004. April to June, registering more than P600 million in profits.

Adding the first two quarters, Piltel posted an income of P810 million in the first half out of net losses of P2.5 billion. In the first half of 2003, the company registered a net loss of P608 million.

Last year's poor performance by about 4 percent forced the company to book P1.36 billion in foreign exchange losses from only P1.17 billion in 2002.

Piltel incurs foreign exchange losses every time the peso depreciates or rises against the dollar and the yen. The company has outstanding dollar of about $400 million of which 69 percent or about $600 million was absorbed by Smart.

RP telco to tie up with Singapore carrier to tap OFW market

PRIMET Communications Inc. is trying to hook up with Mobile One, the second largest carrier in Singapore, to bring its 1528 Smart product to about 86,000 Filipinos in the Lion City.

Sources said Smart would want to launch its 1528 in Singapore soon, following a successful debut in Hong Kong last August.

There are now 23,000 subscribers to 1528 found in 156 Crown Colony, where the Philippines' biggest wireless company had signed-up 7,731 to bring Smart services to 100,000 Filipinos in Hong Kong.

Smart claims its 1528 allows subscribers access to cheaper text messaging, voice call and other innovative products.

In Hong Kong, for instance, officials said Filipinos could visit their family in the Philippines for only 50 HK cents per message text instead of 90 HK cents to 6HK$1 through other carriers.

All one has to do is to buy the 1528 Smart SIM card. Smart's partnership with foreign carriers allow users use the network as it could piss through and deliver the Smart services to Filipinos.

Napoleon Nazareno, president of Smart and its parent firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., said they are looking to forge partnerships with operators in Asia and Europe to service Filipino workers overseas.

He said the group would like to go into another country before yearend.

The latest Smart innovation is part of a grand plan to cash in on about 4 million Filipinos working overseas, including about 80 billion in their families each year.

Smart Padala had handled about 35,000 transactions worth P120 million since it was launched on Aug. 3, according to PLDT.

The cash-rich mobile phone company said it was targeting to sign up some 50,000 and 35,000 Filipino overseas to its 1528 program this year.

PLDT said it was looking to offer 1528 in other Asian countries as well as in Europe. The next targets are Singapore and Italy where, according to officials, there are a sizable number of Filipinos.

PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan said the Ayala Pacific group was now looking at three ways to expand the telecom business in the region. First Pacific Co. Ltd. owns 30 percent of PLDT.

"One is to invest as it is right now company by putting in equity," said Pangilinan. "Another is something like what we did in Hong Kong, where we tied up with another carrier to bring wireless services of a subsidiary. Another option is to focus on retail by selling prepaid cards."

Pangilinan said the Filipino workforce working overseas would be a big market for the integrated services of the PLDT group's fixed line and international gateway, satellites and data operations.

"Hopefully, we can eventually capture the majority of the business in the 4 million Filipinos overseas," said the PLDT chair. "We started with Hong Kong and we would be bringing the same products to other areas where there are many Filipinos."

Cocktales

From page B1

Inn of Maddison Arms. The other purchasers were, on the Sabrado Village side, that were announced on the Sept. 27, 2004, column still belong to Rep. Gilbert and Nelly Teodoro.)

Heard through the grapevine

CONGO money can prove to go up again, at least for those CBL imports that are shipped through the Port of Manila.

The customs authorities there have now discarded the Congress-enacted transaction value in the basis for determining the excise and VAT taxes of the imported vehicles, leaving only the valuation presented by importers into either trade-based or outright fraud.

Faced pressed to increase collections, the customs officials have again resorted to the so-called "blue book" to determine the appropriate prices of the luxury vehicles.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com)

Bullish sentiment seen ...

From page B1

seen buoyant in the coming weeks.

"The market will take its cue on upcoming corporate earnings results coupled with developments on the privatization of transmission and generation assets of National Power Corp. and the security package of the telecom in the fourth quarter," Ey said.

BPI Trade, however, warned that the zone of high oil prices and the weakening peso might limit the market's climb.

"If high oil prices persist up to next year, this will slow down consumption and, eventually, corporate earnings," BPI Trade said.

Meanwhile, Jose Vitalio of AB Capital Securities noted that for the month of September, the stock market index ended with an 11.3-percent gain from its close in August.

"The market is expected to remain in positive territory within 2004's week. The market's positive outlook and strong momentum is likely to carry the market higher in the fourth quarter," he added.

Yuson said market players were also expectative that major blue chip companies, ahead of the release of third-quarter corporate earnings later this month.

Elizabeth L. Rosales

RP lures $421M ...

From page B1

As a result, market-savvy institutions like the Asian Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund upgraded their growth outlook for the country this year.

Another should be the result of July recorded the lowest net inflows in $215.7 million owing to heightened fears over the budget deficit.

"The net inflow increased to $60.8 million in August mainly due to an easing first half average of under blue chip fears and the $600-50 issue not to tighten monetary policy despite the build-up of inflationary pressures to ought about by rising oil prices," he said.

The BSP has kept its key policy interest rates unchanged at 6.5% percent for the overnight borrowing or reverse repurchase rate and 9 percent for the overnight lending or repurchase rate since July last year.

Portfolio inflows refer to non-resident investments in peso bank deposits, government securities, money-market instruments and securities listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

BUSINESS

Landbank backs GSIS pensioners

By Doris C. Dumlao

TEVES

THE LAND Bank of the Philippines has agreed to continue servicing the banking needs of 113,000 government pensioners until Sept. 30 next year at the request of the Government Service Insurance System.

Landbank president Gary Teves said the GSIS had sent written requests dated Oct. 1 and Sept. 14 to extend the banking relationship until the pension fund's electronic card payment system had been fully rolled out.

"We want to assure GSIS pensioners that Landbank is committed to ensuring their convenience and security and will continue to address their needs until Sept. 30, 2005, by which time our eCard system should be fully implemented," Teves said in press statement.

Teves said Landbank had directed its 393 branches nationwide to continue crediting monthly pension payments of pensioners.

He said the bank had no intention to end work covering all 76 provinces reached employees of local government units, public school teachers and other government employees.

GSIS shift to the eCard system earlier drew flak from some groups, for fear it would be

a banking contract was awarded to privately-owned Union Bank of the Philippines.

Some accused GSIS president Winston Garcia of favoring Bienvenido Tan over the private bank's majority owners, the Ayalas headed by also banker Jaime Zobel.

But GSIS explained that Unionbank was chosen over other banks, including Bank of the Philippine Islands, because it offered the best e-banking platform at the lowest minimum maintaining balance of P1 billion.

Unionbank, on the other hand, said it was able to offer the cheapest service because its information technology infrastructure had been in place for some time.

DBM wants special accounts revenue to go to general fund

By Michelle V. Ricino

THE DEPARTMENT of Budget and Management wants to place billions of pesos in revenue from so-called special accounts to the national government's general funds to help ease its budget deficit problem.

According to Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, the national government needs the flexibility to allocate revenue from special accounts—or funds that can only be appropriated for specific activities stated by agencies—for urgent and more vital expenditures, other than those specified by specialists.

She said the move would need legislation by Congress and the DBM was willing to push the bill in the proper forum.

Department of Finance Undersecretary Slevern Dumlao said the DOF supported the idea, given that the objectives of some of the special funds had already been met.

She said revenue from activities undertaken in fulfillment of the special fund should be used for other expenditure requirements of the government that were immediate.

There are so many special funds right now that have kept the government from using the revenue to fund the necessary expenditures, she said.

The special fees are that revenues from activities peculiar to a certain industry or sector should only be used only for a specific expenditure that are related to the said industry or sector.

For instance, the officials said, members named by the government from contracts given to private companies to explain the company's energy service could only be used to fund activities that are related to the energy sector. Another example is the road users' tax, the revenue from which could only be used for road-related expenditures.

In a presentation during a Senate hearing on the proposed 2005 budget held last Friday, Boncodin said the national government expected P262 billion in revenue from special accounts. The amount can significantly help the government address its deficit problem if it has the flexibility to use the money for necessary expenditure requirements.

The government's budget deficit is expected to hit P197.1 billion by year-end. The government hopes to gradually trim it down, by increasing revenue collection and cutting expenditures. Government hopes to wipe out the deficit by the end of President Macapagal-Arroyo's term in 2010.

To help ease the deficit, the DBM has initiated austerity measures, such as suspension of foreign and local travels and purchase of motor vehicles, and strict compliance with government procurement rules.

Filinvest to issue LTCPs worth ₱2B

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

GOTAMCO-LED Filinvest Land Inc. (FLI) will issue P2 billion worth of long-term corporate notes this month to refinance maturing debts in November, investment sources said.

Sources said the real estate developer was finalizing the debt offering and tapped First Metro Investment Corp. (FMIC) to head the group of banks that will manage the debt issue.

Analysts said they expected FLI to secure adequate refinancing support.

"The only major hurdle to FLI is its P2-billion maturing LTCPs in November, after this loan matures, the next major maturity comes in 2007 in the case of FLI's bonds," said Alfred Ty, head of research at Credit Lyonnais Securities Asia.

FLI has P1.2 billion in commercial bonds falling due in February 2005 and P4.7 billion worth of foreign loans payment terms that will mature in March 2005.

FLI president Joseph Tay had said FLI could either refinance its new six-year LTCP issue or a combination of long-term bonds, loans and LTCPs.

Its P2 billion long-term commercial papers falling due in November carries an interest rate of 2 percent over the weighted average of the 91-day Treasury bill rate.

Drawing it has enough resources to settle its obligations, FLI expects sales to increase by 50 percent this year to P3 billion, from the P2 billion generated last year.

FLI said it would set aside at least P1 billion this year for middle income and affordable housing projects, as well as leisure developments.

Among the projects slated for this year are the Blue Ridge Estate in Sto. Tomas , Batangas, a middle-income house and lot development called the Manors and a leisure community called Lanang de Tuel in Tiwi, Batangas.

Tay said the company also planned to further develop its 200-hectare residential property in Taytay called the Manor Ridge.

Oil import bill up 16% despite drop in volume

Pre-need sector sales up 20.8% in first 8 mos.

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PRE-NEED insurance companies registered a 20.8-percent growth in sales in the first eight months of the year to P23.1 billion from P21.995 billion in the same period last year.

However, data from the Insurance and Exchange Commission showed that the number of plans sold dipped by 3.8 percent to 335,632 from 348,918 during the period covered.

As IEC officials see it, the trend will be attributed to the hike in the prices of plans.

Of the plans sold from January to August, pension plans accounted for the bulk of the sales amounting to P 14.38 billion, up by 33.4 percent from P 10.63 billion for the same period last year.

Education plans fell 6.77 percent to P2.888 while life plans dipped 11.6 percent to P2,687.

For the month of August, alone, total fell 23.6 percent to P3.83 billion from P4.87 billion in July. Sales of life plans, however, rose 36.4 percent in August to P401 million, from P275 million in the previous month.

The total number of plans sold in August is to dropped 16.7 percent to 46,397 from 46,400 in July led by declines in the sales of pension and education plans. In the same month, the total number of life plans sold grew 20.6 percent to 13,004 from 8,377 in July.

For education plans, Philam Plans Inc. posted the highest sales during the eight-month period amounting to P1.4 billion. In August, alone, Philam sold P486 million worth of education plans.

College Assurance Plan Philippines (CAP), for its part, sold P 1.03 billion worth of plans from January to August.

The IEC has yet to renew the license of CAP to sell education plans after its dealer's license expired last Sept. 30. The company is in the process of completing the requirements for an extension of its dealer's license. The IEC had ordered CAP to stop selling plans to mid-August after the projected plans sold up the P5 billion worth of plans it was allowed to sell to the public.

In August alone, CAP sold 416 education plans worth P16.8 million.

For pension plans, Philam Plans led the pack with sales of P4.2 billion from January to August.

Phone makers urged to produce cheaper handsets for mass market

GSMA chair Craig Ehrlich (left) welcomes Pham Nhật's journalists Reuben and Hazarena during the GSMA conference.

SINGAPORE—Smart Communications Inc. president and CEO Napoleon L. Nazareno has urged phone manufacturers to develop more affordable handsets as wireless operators see untapped consumer base in rural areas.

"We are talking here of addressing next swath of a (significant chunk of the population)," he said.

Nazareno added that it was "unfortunate" that phone manufacturers were concentrating on high-end phones, despite the fact that low-cost handsets were an important component in the overall mobile phone penetration growth rate.

Nazareno spoke during the opening day Fireside Chat session before delegates of the recent 3GSM Asia Conference. He was interviewed by Craig Ehrlich, chair of the GSM Association (GSMA), alongside fellow CEOs Anuradha Shukton of Idea Mobile (Malaysia) and Sunil Mittal of Bharti Enterprises (India). The Opening Keynote Session theme was "The Next Billion—Boosting Subscribers and Revenue."

This year's 3GSM Asia Conference was held at the Suntec International Conference and Exhibition Centre in Singapore from Sept. 27 to Oct. 1.

It is the annual congress of the GSM Association, the premier global trade association for GSM mobile operators.

The top executives interviewed discussed their business strategies. Nazareno answered questions regarding Smart's experience in broadening the Philippine wireless market through innovative applications and content (ringtones) to entice.

He also tackled the development of Smart's prepaying and highly successful mobile commerce services and how they had opened up the market to lower income individuals and unbanked to industry growth.

Asked why Asian mobile operators were more aggressive and creative in developing innovative wireless services, Nazareno credited the challenges of answering the needs of a diversely challenged market.

"In Smart's case, this perspective of the challenges of the Filipino market has led to the development and launch of groundbreaking mobile commerce services such as Smart Load, Pass Load and Smart Padala," said Nazareno.

Smart handles over two million Smart Load transactions and another two million Pass Load transactions daily, making the two items services the most lively and extensive consumer mobile commerce systems in the Philippines.

Telecom industry analysts have credited these electronic loading services for helping push the country's mobile phone penetration rate to 30 percent, way beyond previous projections of 25 percent by a low per capita income population.

Smart is a member of the GSMA, the global trade association that connects 690 GSM mobile operators from around the world. The GSM Association is the global trade association that exists to promote, protect and enhance the interests of GSM mobile operators throughout the world.

In view of the rising import bill, most of January were incurred to obtain more foreign currency deposit unit (FCDU) loans from local banks.

In the second quarter of the year, oil companies tapped an excess US$1 billion from its FCDU loans, more than double the $443 million they got in the same period last year.

This, according to analysts, exposed the local oil companies to huge foreign exchange risks as their earnings are local currency denominated.

Meanwhile, the peso reached an all-time low of 56.45 to $1 due to the rising oil import bill.

The rising oil import bill combined with the weak peso should prompt local oil firms to do a lot of hedging, analysts said.

Goings On

SBC's new offering

SECURITY Bank Corp. has introduced the Security Dollar Option, a fixed-term dollar investment account, which guarantees a higher contribution rates earlier than deposit rates.

The minimum deposit is $20,000, short-term of less than four months with the fixed-for-same-of-one, two or three years with fixed term rates and rates upon maturity, and credited semi-annually to their accounts. Clients will be given a certificate of time deposit at the end of their investment.

"The account comes with a pre-approved housing loan credit line facility, enabling it as the client's investment. If need arises, "the client can also use the account as collateral for loans up to 90 percent of the deposit placed at the time of application," said Joseph E. Acevedo, Jr., Security Bank and corporate banking group head.

Acevedo also said that Security Dollar Option also allows all clients to easy encashing their earnings every six months.

BPI units link up with BB-1 DO

ABELLA Distaservices Inc. and Asset Pilars, Inc., wholly owned subsidiaries of the Bank of the Philippine Islands, are leveraging the resources of the BPI Network by joining their distribution agents and services with BPI Express giving customers "a "one-stop" system beginning Oct. 1.

Company officials said they hoped to optimize operating synergies by clustering branches of Abella and AP clients and agents to the 66 Aboitiz-owned branches of Bank of the Philippines.

"Abella has and subsidiaries that can enhance various areas of customer servicing are continually being explored," said Aurora S. Soriano, BPI vice president for insurance group operations. She cited the brokerage of Abella's services and the possible cultivation and signing of new life insurance agents.

Customers and agents accessing information or consultation with Abella and AP can simply log on to BPI-Net and press "3", when prompted and entering the client's policy number. Customers can also call the BPI-Abella hotline 818-5555.

The i-CAMP

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Downloadable application forms available at www.asiapacificyouthcamp.com

The Packard Humanity Institute
Foundation

Will SSS run out of money by 2015?

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Rodolfo C. Severino

CORAZON de la Paz, SSS president and CEO, has been stuffed her inside-line. She wants everyone willing to listen that, unless members' contributions are raised, the SSS will run out of money by 2015.

The last time were it taken from the 1990 actuarial valuation commissioned to its clients during an SSS employees' forum, its actuarial response is an assessment of the financial situation projected over a period of years; a financial statement taken up only the financial situation at the end of the year to confirm. In other words, an actuarial valuation covers a span of time; a financial statement covers a point in time.

The 1999 actuarial valuation predicted that the SSS would indeed run out of money by 2015. This prediction was based on the following changes since the 1990 valuation: salary ceiling was raised from P5,000 to P15,000; the minimum monthly pension was raised from P900 to P1,000 for those with the after 10 years of service, and P2,400 for those serving after 10 years of service; the minimum was raised eight times; 10 times the board increases, and the return on investment ranged from 12.5 percent to 28 percent.

In spite of these increases in contributions, the contribution rate remained at 8.4 percent of salary. If the contribution rate were not raised but rose to 9.4 percent, which brings in about P5 billion in new money yearly, the SSS would run out of money earlier than 2015.

The 1999 valuation, as pointed to by the employees' forum, was flawed. It did not show that operating expenses shot up from 2.6% billion in 1999 to almost P4 billion in 1999, a jump of more than eight times in a nine-year span. SSS, also, some employee benefits, such as gift checks, Christmas and anniversary, and allowances were not. Yet, operating expenses kept rising. In 2000, operating expenses had gone beyond P4.779 billion, illegally benefiting the statutory limits of 12 percent of contributions plus 4 percent of investment income.

If the contributions into over-invested, this illegal overspending would be covered by some 12 percent of the additional contributions would be available for operating expenses. Thus, the illegality will vanish.

Another point de la Paz keeps harping on is that, although registered members are rising, the number of paying members is decreasing. In 2000, there were 22,615,898 registered members, and 6,956,439 paying members. The difference in the two figures corresponds to retirees (like me), survivors and dependents, who are legally non-paying members.

So, what's the fuss all about?

The media blitz over focuses on collecting some P5 billion from delinquent employers. Of course, this is a problem. But the problem pales when compared to the following considerations. The P50 billion in small loans (salary notices, calamity) recommitments are hopelessly in arrears. The amounts offered will surely fail. The P40 billion in low-cost housing loans is still begging for a buyer. If a buyer is found, SSS will be lucky if does not get 50 centavos for every peso it loaned. There is the P10 billion lost on the Equitable PCI investment. Finally, there is all that money tied up in real estate, mostly condominium units, which devalue the early days.

I am not against raising the contributions rate, per se. But, as I said in a previous column, any additional contributions must be used to take the following considerations: they will have to be increased; none of the additional contributions will be made available for operating expenses; any investible portion of the new money will have to be invested, not in by-the-government securities, and none of the new money will have to be invested in new issues; these issues are, by law, the liabilities of the national government.

Just before everything else, no income in contributions can be invested until the 2005 actuarial valuation is ready, as required by law. I wonder what is holding up the computation of this valuation.

In the end, a permanent solution will have to be found. Otherwise, the financial problem will just keep coming back. As we've done in the U.S., a presidential fact-finding commission should be set up. The date should be one of the country's biggest businessmen, with enough clout and influence to persuade all sectors to accept the hard-but-financially-true the private sector.

Why am I so involved in this problem? I have gotten my money back many times over after 14 years as a contributor. The reason is that three of my grandchildren are now working and are now SSS members. For the next ten years, at least, I will be dependent on their work from me. I just want to make sure that when they retire, they can look back and say "Thanks, Lolo!"

2 local airlines vie for additional Japan flights

By Cornelia S. Basino

PHILIPPINE Airlines and Cebu Pacific air are preparing to fly four times a week to Nagoya, Japan starting February 2005.

The Civil Aeronautics Board, however, has yet to make a decision on how to allocate the new flight entitlements from Japan.

PAL president Jaime Bautista said PAL intended to fly four times weekly to Nagoya, whose international airport will open in February next year.

Cebu Pacific general manager Lincoln Ong said the Gokongwei airline had been asking the CAB to allow it to fly to Japan but all the remaining entitlements had already been granted to PAL. Cebu Pacific believes the opening of Nagoya is good a chance to finally fly to Japan.

PAL flies weekly to Osaka, Tokyo, Fukuoka and Okinawa, Japan.

Mojica said with the 14 new entitlements given by Japan to the Philippines, as a result of the bilateral air talks three weeks ago, Cebu Pacific wanted to fly four times a week to Nagoya and three times a week to Osaka.

"Of the 14 entitlements, seats are in Osaka and seven are in anywhere in Japan except Tokyo where there are no available slots. PAL is already flying to Osaka so we won't be getting any of the new entitlements there. But we want to fly four times a week to Nagoya," said Bautista.

Mojica, however, said the CAB should make a fair decision considering that PAL had already assumed all the previously awarded 47 entitlements.

SMART/TSTA

"I don't think it is appropriate for the government to suppose give everything to PAL. We wanted to fly to Japan but we couldn't because there seem to seats unnilaterals. Now there are new ones and we hope the CAB will award them to us," said the Cebu Pacific official.

Bautista said if PAL would use its aircraft, it could consume all the available coffs seats to Nagoya.

One coffs seat is equivalent to one round trip flight using a Boeing 737 aircraft with a seating capacity of 120; 1.5 coffs seats for an Airbus 330, which can carry 250 to 290 passengers and 2 coffs seats for Boeing 747, which has seating capacity of 347 to 400.

Japan determines aviation entitlements through coffs seats, which are based on aircraft size.

Mojica said the new coffs seats would have to be shared with cargo carriers. Lucio Tan's Pacific East Asia Cargo and another small carrier, most overnight would like to carry freight to and from Japan.

"There is more volume to Nagoya although the Japanese government is also aggressive in selling Osaka," said the Cebu Pacific official.

The Gokongwei airline said it would "offer lower fare and only on-time service" like what it had been selling to passengers flying to South Korea and Hong Kong.

The Philippines has been courting Japan to agree to an open skies regime that will liberalize on capacity and frequency entitlements for passenger, cargo and chartered flights.

PAL, Air Macau start code-share

PHILIPPINE Airlines said its Macau-based began a twice-weekly code-share service between Manila and Macau, with its Macau as the operating carrier.

PAL is now able to offer seats on the Macau flight between the two cities, giving the Philippine flag carrier a continental presence for the first time in the former Portuguese territory on Chinese soil territories coast.

"We are delighted to partner with Air Macau in further growing traffic on this sector," said Rosey So Ng, PAL executive vice president-commercial group.

"I am pleased to cooperate with Philippine Airlines to develop the market between Macau and Manila," said Li Qiang, vice president-commercial of Air Macau. "The cooperation will enhance exchanges between the two cities, and upgrade trade and tourism activities as well."

The service will enjoy dual designation, with both PAL and Air Macau codes appended to the flight numbers.

Flight PR 851 departs Manila's Nino Aquino 1 every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9:50 a.m. and arrives at Macau International Airport at 11:50 a.m. The return flight, PR 852, departs Macau at 7 a.m. and lands in Manila at 9 a.m. on the same days.

All flights will be Air Macau Airbus A321 aircraft.

Mirant expansion seen to boost economy

THE ASSOCIATION of Stock Exchanges of the Philippines (Asep) said the initiative by American firm Mirant (Philippines) Corp. of some $400 million to new investments into the country's power sector would allay fears of a power supply shortage and boost prospects of business and industrial expansion in the country.

Asep's statement came after Mirant announced that it was expanding the capacities of its existing power generation facilities in Quezon and Cebu provinces by an additional 450 megawatts. It is undertaking the expansion project with its partner Global Business Holdings Inc. (GBH) of the Hutchison group.

Asep director Antonio Castillo said the expansion project "is an important signal to the international business community that the Philippines' efforts to address crucial power issues have in fact been productive."

Since the 450-mw project is expected to bring in some 450 megawatts in additional capacities within the next four years, this should mean potential investors that the country will have enough supply of electricity to support the requirements of new and expanded businesses and industries, he pointed out.

Int. Castillo also pointed out that the $400 million in new investments followed the investment in the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) giving the National Power Corp. provisional authority to raise its generation charges by an average of 87 centavos per kilowatt hour.

Asahi Glass project OKd

ASAHI Glass Philippines Inc. said the Board of Investments has approved its request to register its flat glass solar panel production facilities as pioneer investments.

Company officials said in a statement that AGP's factory start-up activities last Sept. 27 after two months of repair and rehabilitation.

AGP is also building a special batch plant for solar cover glass formulation, while additional equipment for glass processing are expected to arrive in April 2005.

AGP expects to start commercial operations of its solar cover glass plant in July 2005.

It was earlier reported that AGP was investing $30.1 million to make solar cover glass. The firm expects the project to yield $35 million a year in export receipts.

AGP, the country's pioneer in the flat glass industry, has also announced plans to expand and rehabilitate its float furnace, which produces bulk of its output by January 2006.

The officials said state-of-the-art improvements to increase productivity as well as capacities to produce multiple product types would be some of the first options.

They did not say how much they were investing, but industry sources said AGP has earmarked some $40 million to upgrade of its float furnace and expand its float glass production line.

As of December 2003, AGP's mother unit Asahi Glass Co. Inc. of Japan has already infused P3.2 billion into its Philippine operations.

This was on top of the state-of-the-art technology and export market access that is provided the company.

By next year, AGP expects to generate more export revenues from its proposed special economic zone in Pasig City where its plant tech offices are located.

INCREASED SUPPLY NEEDED

Oil prices pose threat to global economy, G7 says

WASHINGTON—Group of Seven leaders are worried about high oil prices clouding the global economy but have little means to influence the marketplace, analysts say.

G7 finance ministers and central bankers, in a statement following talks Friday, suggested that oil prices—which closed above $50 for the first time Friday—appear to be the main risk to an otherwise strong global economy.

"Oil prices remain high and are a risk," the G7 said. "We call on oil producers to provide adequate supplies to ensure the price moderates."

"Right now, oil prices are causing an economic headwind," said US Treasury Secretary John Snow after the G7 talks.

"The geopolitics of oil, and current uncertainties, are causing a short-term phenomenon. The finance ministers and I are committed to promoting policy reforms in each of our economies to speed the return of more reasonable costs."

But analysts said most of the factors are beyond the control of the G7, which represents the seven richest industrial countries.

"The problem is that oil markets are right now driven not by demand but by growing fears about supply," said Stephen Roberts, chief economist at the economic research firm Global Insight.

"It's not as if Opec is manipulating the market. There's really not much anybody can do, until the investments now being made bring more clout."

Roberts said the G7 is concerned, however. "If oil prices stay at this level or move higher it could depress the global economy," Joseph Quinlan, economist at Bank of America, said it would be a stretch to think the G7 can "position" the oil markets.

"I think the oil market will change when global growth slows," he said.

"The G7 can be effective in currency markets but they have no real history in the oil markets," Roberts agreed, but said the G7 ministers wanted to express its concern about a major risk to global economic growth.

"Clearly they're worried, and I think the reflects a worry about how much oil prices will affect growth. But it's not that the G7 has much influence. They don't." In an effort to show a balanced view, the G7 statement also called on consumer nations to increase energy efficiency and called for more transparency in global markets by getting more information about supply and demand, principally through the International Energy Agency.

The statement came after New York crude oil futures closed at their highest levels ever.

The light sweet crude November futures contract on the New York Mercantile Exchange closed up 48 cents at $50.12 a barrel, posting a record close, on the latest Wiper fuel worries.

In London, the price of oil reserve Brent North Sea crude oil for delivery in November rose 34 cents to close up at $40.42 a barrel.

European Central Bank President Jean-Claude Trichet called the problem serious.

"All we are observing today is not encouraging," Trichet said, adding that if prices remain high it "could certainly hamper the global economy."

Snow said the G7 may be able to take some of the pressure off the markets.

"We're urging the countries with reserves to do everything they can to make sure that the supplies are adequate to meet market requirements," Snow said.

That "will help deal with some market uncertainty, which I think is feeding some speculation which is taking the spot price well above the fundamentals in the markets," the US official said. AFP

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Oil, earnings to weigh on Wall St. stocks

NEW YORK—A new reporting period for company earnings kicks into gear this week, giving investors a lot of hard data to chew on, and markets could be volatile if the price of crude oil nears another $50 a barrel.

US President George W. Bush and his rival, John Kerry, also hold the second of three debates, but it's the first in any substance—with no clear winner or major stumble—they are unlikely to move markets, market analysts and traders say.

"The most important factors driving the market continue to be the price of oil, and as we approach earnings for the third quarter. Obviously that's going to be a very key driver," said Keith Bittman, vice president of institutional trading at brokerage Wall Street access.

Aluminum producer Alcoa Inc., traditionally the first to fire at the beginning of the quarterly earnings season, reports on Thursday and kicked off neighborhood Goldman Sachs Co. on Friday.

Standard & Poor's reports earnings to grow 15.9 percent in the third quarter, a healthy rate but off the record pace of the first half of the year when growth exceeded 30 percent.

Ed Yardeni, chief investment strategist at Oak Associates Ltd. in Akron, Ohio, with more than $4 billion under management, said he believes stocks will strike into a historical trend of 7 percent earnings growth.

Consensus earnings were could 20 the number out of 30 singletons, another analyst said.

"If we have another solid earnings season, like we did for the second quarter, maybe that will give the market some motivation to post some gains," said Weldon Bonnie, vice president of bond trading at Legg Mason Wood Walker. Reuters

Gov't eyes VAT on bus, jeepney operators

From page B1

for the operation of his or her business. The input credits can be deducted from the amount of VAT he or she has to pay, to prevent cross-subsidies.

"This is an alternative measure we are studying because the transport industry might seek for concessions when the time comes that they will have to pay the higher cost of petroleum because of the VAT," Tan told reporters.

She said, however, that the DOF has not yet made definite its plan to make the transport industry shift from percentage tax to VAT as it was still weighing available options. The Finance undersecretary could be to retain the transport industry under the percentage tax system, and just allow public utility operators to include VAT on petroleum as part of expenses that are deductible from their taxable income.

The plan to impose VAT on petroleum products comes with the move of the DOF to trim the number of exempt products and services. The DOF said the "low money" VAT contributors in the country were the reason the VAT system has not been efficient in generating substantial revenues for the government.

Tan explained that exemptions distorted the tax trail of the VAT system, which is designed to have a wider tax base.

Government economists say that the Philippines has one of the lowest levels of VAT collection efficiency in Asia. The Philippines' efficiency ratio is 0.45, which means that in 2002, the effective VAT rate should have been about 4.2 percent of sales. The country's gross domestic product stood at P4.82 trillion that year. With that amount of GDP and a fixed tax VAT rate, the government should have collected P202.49 billion from VAT. But VAT collections only stood at P91.0 billion or only 1.9 percent of GDP. Michaela P. Ramos

BEA Zobel visits Navotas fish port /C2

LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Bassé-Formoso
Associate Editor Lito B. Zulueta

Salud! to down-home Filipino comfort

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

SOME old-style Filipino recipes are still cooked over coals on a traditional wooden platform.

SALUD! Bistro in Baguio City was recently mentioned by the readers of Tatler Magazine as one of the best restaurants in the country.

Not one to rest on his laurels, chef Paul Polistico recently opened his second establishment, Bistro Salud, in rural Barangay Santo Tomas, San Pablo City, Laguna.

Bistro Salud is not crowded because it is off the main highway or the outskirts of the city. A short wooden bridge of the vanishing kind (heritage that the engineers and contractors of the Department of Public Works and Highways were replacing with ugly concrete monstrosities is the landmark to look for.

Just past the bridge and hidden from the road is the weekend home of Tito and Nitz Dizon, a magical place they now share with the public in the setting of the new Bistro Salud.

Pilot Polo had planned on their property years ago but scattered into a farm-made jungle. A profusion of bamboo, fruit trees, vines and ferns grew into a dense tropical rainforest where leaves diffuse sunlight into cool dim because off the sumptuous lichen-mark-ings the ground.

There's a place to reconnect with nature.

The refreshing sound of water is everywhere, coming from the many fountains on the property or from a stream that bubbles its way at the bottom of a steep drop behind the house hidden by thick foliage.

The house is so concealed in its lush and tropical setting that rainforest and house appear to have coexisted forever, a testimony of how Polo greatly contemplated and planned everything together.

Bistro Salud's menu goes beyond ordinary boards. She fearlessly takes colors, textures and patterns and their mixes, juxtapositions, contrasts, confusions, layers, overlays and underlays to everything.

Visual excess

She takes visual excess straight to its upper limits, to a level bordering on sensory overload. Abracadabra the place is not. It is filled to capacity. The feel is baroque, folk, and peppery, the design approach is traditionally and delightfully Filipino.

The way the house and garden look is fabulous, deeply evoking Filipino memory, decorated with nostalgia of childhood homes in the provinces. Surely none of those homes could have come close to matching the opulence of this one.

Each element in her home comes from somewhere else. Recycled bamboo left with its

FRAMED by a giant bamboo, the exterior wall—window (antique livelihood, jalousie) and wooden balusters, capiz windows, while the bamboo dripping on the walls suggests traditional lane once a panoramic scene.

A MASSIVE wooden door salvaged from a demolished house opens through a rustic pebbled wall to the kitchen.

THE PARTY A waiter at the res...

THE DAVIDSONS of Ilok

ALL smiles, a lady holds a genette.

Something fishy

ALL4ART

Rose Zobel Jr.

A 5:1 start to the super-market this other week, I couldn't help but glance at the fish section. I felt rather smug. The fish I had bought that morning was probably fresher than what was on sale.

I also knew some where all the fish being sold to the comfort come from. So I feel loyal to the Navotas fish port, the source of much of the seafood sold throughout Metro Manila.

Now, don't get the wrong idea. I am not about to rush over to the Bilihan every time I want to cook some pinpang.

The 10 hectares all the action takes place is the same hours of the morning. Unless get up at 2 a.m., I'm sure I think that I am going to get into the seafood retail business!

Navotas is about 30 km north of Manila, right on the shores of the great Bay. Like its sister town Malabon, it is located on an island. This island was supposedly formed when the sea ate away at the land, forming a lake or basin.

Getting there, you drive past Smokey Mountain. I noticed the mounds are now covered with grass. No wonder where all the garbage is being dumped these days.

As long as Navotas, we were greeted by our hosts, Alfing Cuteng Bunsuang and her son Neal. It was really early in the morning, but they said, as with the ancient traders, I would learn later on that the early morning warmth is considered the coolest, naturally, in Navotas.

The fish port was incredible! There was so much energy. Everyone was absorbed in a myriad of tasks—bargaining, shouting, lifting, hauling, unloading, shooting etc. Everyone was there for a purpose, there was excitement in the air.

Yet, no one in the least bit out my camera lit up the scene, were everyone stopped and posed!

Yes, I had no difficulty getting people to smile for the camera. Be a photo shot to stop-mode for Neal of Ilok. I never expected to encounter so many lovers!

As if the market wasn't loud enough, somebody kept on exploding firecrackers. It was like a New Year's party in a enclosed area!

So there was method to all this madness. The fish port turns on a concern of energy-saving. There after you call the middle traders people who buy the catch from the fishermen and then sell them wholesale to the retailers. The retailers then sell the catch retail in the different markets or talipapa Manila. The entrepreneurs representatives are usually served via steady, overlooking the metal lines (called batchoys) of fish.

The vendors employ an interesting technique when bidding for the catch. They whisper their price to the entrepreneur so no one else hears their bid. This is called the balon-gon.

METAL fish vendors pose in the Navotas fish port.

MY grandmom knows, the Bunsuang family

When the entrepreneurs know the amount that is meant to the seller, he then scribbles the bid by no thing it down on paper. The deal is on! To show that the matter is closed, the piece of paper is placed on top of the fish.

The fish port is a world in itself. It has its own terms and nomenclature. There are the terms for the instruments of the trade such as the bunsuan, the bamboo strip from which hang the baskets of fish so they are viewed around the market.

There is also the gumbo, the metal hook that is used to pull the baskets, the metal basket of the South seafish. Pandakaw is the local term for the fish depot. "Sukuan ti" refers to a pre-arranged price that has been fixed even before the fish are unloaded.

I also noticed that the women were those huge species like swordfish. Those pulled the fish from the off the ferry more or less on a carry all the rock in big numbers.

What an incredible story of fish flow through I saw a dozen. I don't think I have ever seen so many kinds! There were the usual ones—bangus and tuna, but there were also parrot fish, lapulapu, alu, mamsaya, squid and rudo. Finally, there were also endangered species like manta rays. One was only large-size those fish weren't caught through destructive means that one can see in reefs.

There was a bewildering range of sizes as well as colors. A friend of mine pointed out that in any Filipino restaurant in Hokkaido one enjoys Lapu-lapu, mapa-mapa and bone-bone.

There is one case where the name has the same syllable appearing three times! Do you know what fish I'm talking about? Give up? It's Hi-Hi. (Okay, okay, it's also called Hito-Hito.)

He ended the day having breakfast at the Bunsuang home. The house is as well as spacious as some Roxas mansions.

Alfing Cuteng has been selling fish since 1960. It is a trade she started both her mother and father were in it. For this matriarch, family is only in the morning to make sure she misses nothing. Her duties her choices and that synonym is everything all the way to her mid-30s.

Meanwhile, her husband is the one who has the honor to take care of the kids. I was told this a month by the one with most flexible

Bill Bunsuang with a bamboo pingot

ALONG Tinaling pa opening our pero-pero at 4:00 a.m.

Navotas is simply incredible. Full of energy, it is a town of sounds and sights

household.

The Bunsuang couple brought up eight wonderful children through their labors. Hard work and warm family values have resulted in a gracious home that was once running on our rugged beach a-cuddy in the morning.

The senior Mr. Bunsuang even commented as by playing a selection of Filipino music on the stereo.

For breakfast, we had delicious fried fish brought in the pandesal, champorado, tinapa, tapsilog, pan de sal and the ever-popular pan-cakes. That one was bought hot and luscious, ang from a stall down the street run by Aling Tailing (don't shout for God sake!).

Pans salon is couched in values like pan-handling, but it is made from only the finest fish. The bamboo tables where the pans are assessed are poked with a long instrument to push out the whole cakes, hence the name "salon."

This wonderful delicacy is just one of the many things that make Navotas a unique and humbling place. I can't wait to share my—albeit inadequate—adjectives like jerky and humbling, shipbuilding and not sweating.

If there is anything else a truly amazing about the Navotas pesohaan, it is the surreal tide energy. It is an ebb-and-flow that is more than the pulse and power of our nation—not to mention the good humor!

Blaming a little of this life is such a paradigm and makes working on my columns worth it.

Let's remember this next time we see those dental people who work so hard to bring that Saturday plan!

Salud! to down-home . . .

Pamangan p.4

THE HOUSE contains eclectic tropical Philippine pieces that are treasures in it.

INSIDE out, the house is a recycled patchwork of parts from old houses joined with a soft interior light.

original post-pubic-wake into an interior paradise accented with massive hardwood doors pulled from a bahay na bato demolition.

Set above antique balconies of rare bronzed wood, old capiz windows are reused and are set by heavy iron grilles forged generations ago.

Carved wooden beamed ceilings (salvaged from old houses) support dense work, strung off wooden, and unconventionally in perforated and mirrored tiles cast patterned sunlight on her polished bamboo floors, giving an understated texture to the space.

Chinese carpets combine with silk upholstery pillows covered in handwoven pandanus cloth from Ilocos, enchanted pandanus in delicious color combinations all set off by gossamer mosquito netting.

There is nothing static about this house. It is a home of vampires that offers so many things to catch the eye. Although the amount of detail staggers, the diverse designs, colors, shapes and textures manage to come together unbelievably.

Under the bamboo flooring of the sleeping quarters above, the ceiling (ground floor) of the house is now Russian Salad. The first thing that catches the eye on the bright red and gold Chinese damask replica set on tables covered with a collection of unmatched tables cloths.

Exhibits

At Kasing Salud, the artwork on the walls, tables and garden nooks are all for sale. A season of exhibits is in the works. Right now there are metal sculptures, antique Filipiniana etchings from Europe, and local pottery.

There is organically grown rice, and from the garden there are potted herbs, plants and organic fruit are reducing house.

In the future, a separate building will house artwork and antique shops. It is going to be quite a place to go to.

What about the food at Kasing Salud? For antecedents like Nicole Bit's Sweet John inspired-Filipino cuisine, Kasing Salud is the bourgeois Euro-Asian traditionally room for women but also received unrelated seasoning skills to handle-on, medieval. So far exclusive Filipino arrival, the cuisine could not be anything else but Filipino.

Kasing Salud cuisine evokes memories. It is familiar on the palate but. Sweet. Mood scent, generally catch the creativity or to-chef.

So the menu is lately everyday cooking with the flavors and delicacies that spell comfort food to the Filipino palate. For the cooking is cuisines above the everyday. It is a kind of vampire's-to that offers so many things to catch the eye. Although the amount of detail staggers, the diverse designs, colors, shapes and textures manage to come together unbelievably.

Under the bamboo flooring of the sleeping quarters above, the ceiling (ground floor) of the house is now Russian Salad. The first thing that catches the eye on the bright red and gold Chinese damask replica set on tables covered with a collection of unmatched tables cloths.

Kasing Salud is an hour and a half drive south of Manila. Dining hours are 10:30 a.m.–5 p.m. and from 5:30–9 p.m. Reservations: (0917) 8161161. Contact kasingsalud@yahoo.com or call (042) 772-6967 or (049) 541-6575 or log on Rabbi. In Manila call 729-1050/10.

E-mail Isabel at ophelia@hotmail.com

Velasco women in unique family show

THE GAZEBO from will mount 'Magalera,' the family exhibit of best-selling artist Lydia Velasco and her daughters, Chin and Chiqui, on Oct. 8.

Lydia (center) for her stunning figures of women in earthy-rich and powerful colors. Chiqui studied fine arts at UP Diliman and won a miraculous prize at the Art Association Philippines' annual in a prize that was Cite sculpting and her master's at UP and is noted for her sculptures.

The show runs until Oct. 22. Astra is at the second floor of the LBI Business Plaza, 130 K Garcia St. (formerly Shaw), Brgy. Ibayo-Tipas, Taguig. For more information, call 8370588 or 7260833.

LYDIA Velasco and daughters Chin and Chiqui

CHATTY sisters and pieces Ballesteros

'Polyester Love' at Astra

"POLYESTER Love," an exhibition by Cecil Ballesteros and Janet Ballesteros on Galerie Astra, focuses on the dilemmas of modern-day relationships.

Together is a young emerging artist who has garnered several awards from Metrobank and Shell.

His surreal works are rocket rides through various emotions of love, lust, melancholy and loneliness, showing his delightfully-comical perception of life in "...a big party on a

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Powered by

Art auction to benefit breast cancer sufferers

EVERY week or every month," comedy actor Lourdes Montes Fernando says, "I would hear of a friend or a relative who'd fall ill..." She then made a list of her friends and relatives with the illness. Finally, she came up with a list of seven.

The illness is cancer.

Montes Fernando is just one of 15 Filipina artists participating in an exhibit-cum-auction starting the third year of Avon's "Breast Goodbye to Breast Cancer" (BGBC) campaign.

The event, titled "Envisioning Life," has gathered 12 women from diverse fields—as seen in the artists' names by their works.

The works will be featured in an art exhibit-cum-auction today at the Pajonoa Ballroom of the Manila Peninsula. Its goal is to generate funds to support chemotherapy treatments of selected indigent patients of the PGH Breast Care Center.

For years, Avon has been at the forefront of the crusade against breast cancer, raising seven-digit (USD) millions in the process. In 2004, Avon launched the global fundraising program "Breast Goodbye to Breast Cancer" for survivors in striking the devastation of cancer with a universal symbol: a green ribbon.

In the Philippines, the proceeds of the last two years were used to build the PGH Breast Care Center, purchase a mammography machine, an ultrasound machine, and support salaries and medical supplies.

Aside from Montes Fernando, the other artists participating are Agnes Arellano, Ivi Avellana-Cuevo, Julie Lluch Dalena, Annie Garcia-Enriquez, Imelda Cajipe-Endaya, Rosa Garcia-Henry, Bianca Imperial, Jeanne Javellana, Paulina Lee, Susy Pelgrift, Sarah Stevenson-Kuntz, Liz Tuvilla, Cynthia Villareal and Avon Laurea Siang.

The 12 survivors, on the other hand, are Susan Claudio, Rita Bonzalida-Kalaw, entrepreneur Cecile Gandole-Alvarez, artist Lydia Bautista, promotions

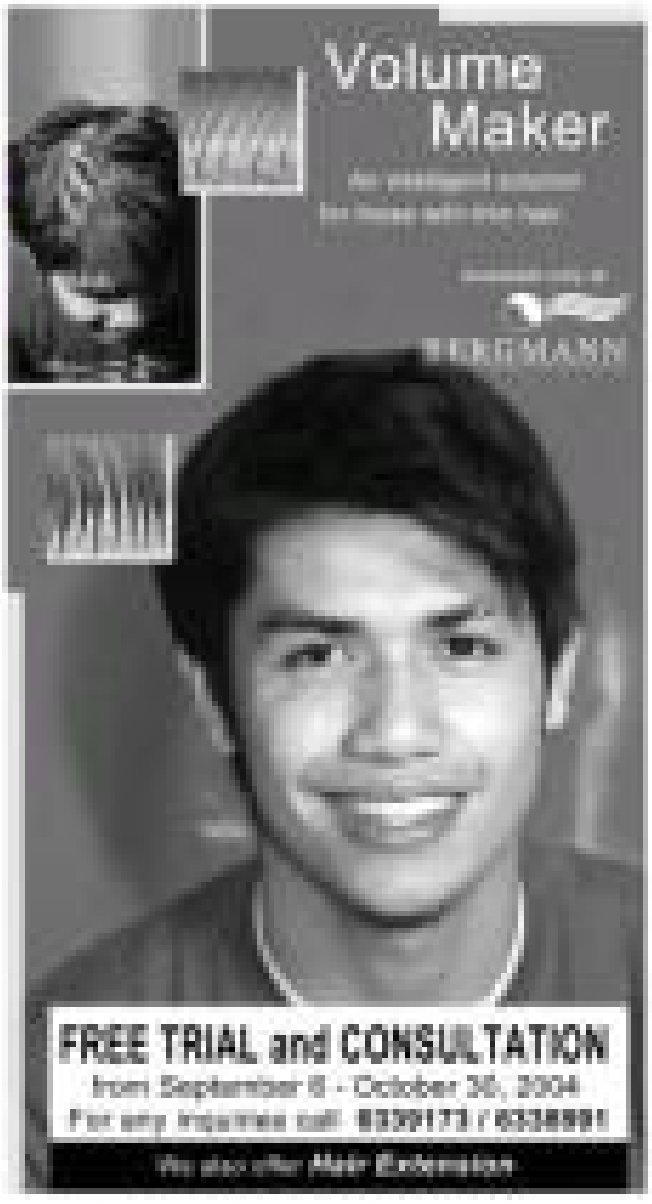
LAMELLE Rivera Fernando

IMELDA Cajipe-Endaya

Kate Magsaysay-Aldaguin and Ann Mountcastle-Oreiro, investment banker David, educators Carol Pavia, entrepreneur Ally Severino Martinez, corporate executive Linda Pascual-Ogilvie attendant Gee Gomez, video communications head Gina Isabel Ocfemia-Lim, and children's and women's issues advocate Elaine Espinosa. Noted photographer Jun de Leon will add drama to the event with his black-and-white portraits of these awesome women.

Using the medium of their choice, the artists created art pieces inspired by the amazing traits of these survivors, such as forgiveness, humility, graciousness, perseverance and patience.

If you wish to support this worthy cause by bidding for an artwork, call 8816573 to 75.



The art of direct sculpture

By Constantine C. Tejero

"PHOTO Session"

LOOK what an artist can do with bare materials, simple machines and spare materials.

Pick just his hands and hammer, Ben Jimenez forms metal into witty representations, shaping steel round bars into line drawings or doodles in space, melding the bars on to a base of steel rods or lead acting as armor-bracketing sculptures. It is really bare metalwork.

"They call it direct sculpture," says Jimenez.

Some 30 of these pieces are showcased in his sixth solo exhibit "Wired," until Oct. 5 in Blue Gallery at the Artwalk, 4/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

Jimenez's ability to capture the character or personality of a subject with minimal lineal strokes, using steel bars to draw the outline, shows a virtuoso draftsmanship. The lines are adhesive and playful, each piece a reminder to real play.

The viewer experiences the thrill of recognition upon seeing those thick wires of grey metal wrought into exciting wisps of clouds in "Worship Servant" and the "Sling Shot" series; bitty uncoiled noodles compacted into blocks in "Extinct Insect Cartoon" and "Ancient Mural"; the bulk and nails in the "Banca" series; the aura of forget Rubber; the ruffled hair of the bagic "Brides Girl".

The pieces referring to photographs—"Multiple Exposure" and two series called "Portraits" and "Photo Session"—are quasi-abstract, that is, almost unrecognizable, but the viewer won't miss the underlying tale. "Photo Grammar" is notable for the delicacy of each frame, while "Multiple Exposure" has a sound elegance.

Jimenez took up Fine Arts, major in Visual Communications, at the University of the Philippines. He admires the works of Juan Alcaraz and Bernardo Pergueira.

His art-making has had a somewhat linear development, starting with representations of paintings, doing a series on windows, then shifting to semi-abstract bottles, he turned to abstraction. He began seriously sculpting only in 1999.

"Identify unique along toughers up found objects since college, especially those with solid shapes," he says. "Rock Dalton was the one who encouraged me to sculpt. He told me, 'Economize Ben. Highlight this'... Sculpture is very spontaneous. Parang naglo-roll lage lang ako. With painting, I'd drag myself to get a canvas. Medyo di na-earth ito."

"MULTIPLE Exposure"

"TOP SHOE Ping Blue"

"PORTRAIT"

He is particularly fascinated by the metalwork of Spanish artist Julio Gonzalez. "He taught because how to weld metal," he adds.

Metal is the medium he is most comfortable with, and as Gonzalez's dinner sculptures directly inspired his art. "Nakitagan ako ng shape ng wood and stones in college. Mas gusto ko spontaneous."

For material, he visits certain junk shops in Annapolis and Mandaluyong. For this exhibit, he found the wired bars used to bind I-beams together in Teodoro Area, Quezon City.

After creating a piece, he places it in his garden to expose it to the elements. After two weeks, it acquires a layer of rust, and this he brushes over with acid (the rust removes the acid to achieve the texture and color he wants. The moment he likes what he sees, he arrests the spontaneous oxidation by coating the piece with polyurethane.

He says that next time he'd want to experiment with painted steel. "We've seen what he can do with line, let's see what he can do with color.

Quintet of artists

"LIMPE's Lily Pond," by Julius Limpe

DIMAEN, "Talking Man's," by Fil Delacruz

TDF artists Fil Delacruz, Raul Isidro, Julius Limpe, Romulo Olazo and Al Perez have banded together and added themselves "Quinto." They will show their recent works at The Medium, no. 6.

Isidro and Olazo are senior abstractionists who have experimented with various media and techniques.

Isidro is the grandson of the Philippine fo. on artist of Pointillism; he has done monochromes and abstract paintings such as his Modern Earth series. Olazo is primarily known and with duplicitous paintings based on the calligraphic technique.

Delacruz is the renowned graphic artist working particularly in monotint and lithograph. He has lately dabbled in oil pastel on handmade paper.

Limpe is an expressionist painter who is former known for his renderings of serious Tropical fishes and colorful pond life. Perez is famous for his work on old Philippine church. ornaments but experimented with collage done in an abstract expressionist style.

The show will run until Oct. 12. Call 361-8771.

DELACRUZ, Isidro, Olazo, Perez and Limpe

"Encounters" at Ayala Museum

ALEXANDRE Chartrel

ALEXANDRE Chartrel's right-bit place to satisfy luxury watches, jewelry and accessories, being host to the global fashion empire that his parents, Philippe and Annick Chartrel, have built. Instead, he has opted for a career in the fine arts.

On Oct. 11, Alexandre will have a chance to experience the artistry and creativity of his exhibit of his paintings at the Ayala Museum titled "Encounters."

A graduate of the Parsons School of Design in New York, Chartrel says the inspiration for his art "comes from everyday events filtered by my own subconscious. I believe that art is an individual experience. You see what you feel."

The artist has had a number of shows since 1999, beginning at Art Sydney Show in London. In 2002, he had shows at Le Hibopart in New York, the Studio 4.C also in New York, the Philippe Chartrel Foundation in Hong Kong, Museum of Fine Arts annual auction in New York, and Aquavarius Hotel Las Vegas in New York.

"MONKEY Business"

"WWW.Art"

"ME and Me"

Diaz at Heritage, De la Cruz at Art Elements, Marian art at Rustan's

YOUNG artist J. P. Diaz will open his second solo, "Evening," on Oct. 7 at the Ayala Art Center (SM Megamall). He has 12 paintings in oil and acrylic on canvas on brilliant-hue treatments of religious themes, and abstractions of the Ifaluk women, manga readers, nudes and mannequins. There are also impressionist renditions of nature.

ABSTRACT artist Arthur de la Cruz is holding his solo show at Art Elements (A/L, SM Megamall). "Quiet Journey" describes the painter's journey through life as he uses textures to symbolize and be confounded by the puzzling and jogging reality around him. The 18 works are mostly done in mixed media, and reflect earthbound colors and solid shapes. The show runs until Oct. 16. Call 6340006.

ARTS Unlimited presents "Way to Heaven: Marian Icons and Images," an exhibit of Philippine Marian art at the U.P. Rockwell Ayala Museum. The exhibit presents depictions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in different icons, prints, bas-relief, sculpture, mandalas of lines and figures, and in various media. The exhibit runs until Oct. 31.

At "Art Festival, Windows," on Oct. 13-31 in Gallery Dumlao (SM Megamall), Phyllis Zaballero returns to his favorite motif—the window—and strikes a delicate balance between the representational and the abstract. The artist's fishnooks are reminiscent colors and gestural marks. Call 6342051.

CULTURAL Center of the Philippines Pasiyan Grants Museum to feature

VISUAL ARTS

"Old Hearts," two-man exhibit by Gil Elvgren and Freddie Fernandez, Oct. 7-Nov. 7. Call 8183700.

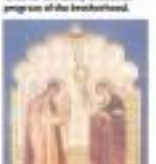
BOSTON Gallery presents recent paintings of Poet Cano and Jerson Tumaliuan until Oct. 15. Specific "Virtual" is a collection of abstract monochromic paintings of the Ubod Gallery. Tumaliuan's "Background" is a series of new works in mixed canvas works focused on the flowers in nature. Boston Gallery is at 17 Bonifacio St., Ilocos. Call 7720000.

"REDEMPTION," by Gil Elvgren

"HANGO Vendors Series 15," by Jil Diaz

"IMMACULATE Mother," by Ofelia

THE BROTHERHOOD of Christian Businessmen and Professionals sponsored an art seminar featuring Arturo Luz, Tan Awards, Oscar Edaniola, Manny Baldemor, Montes Santos and Rafael Cuz (whose watercolor "Coral Rose" is shown at left). The exhibit raised funds for the family encounter program of the brotherhood.



PHILIPPINE Marian art at Rustan's

Passion for antiques and heritage

By James Earl G. Trinidad
Contributor

HENRY G. Bañico's penchant for art and antiques is an inspiring tale of hard work, patience and commitment.

Barely out of high school, he started collecting soup bottles that he bought for a measly P30, P50, or P80 each, using his savings from his allowance.

From bottles, he branched out to collecting plates, saucers and cups. "The unique kind," he emphasizes.

Little by little, he went to more evolved antique collecting. As a young woman—he finished actuarial course!—his ship arsenal HENRY G. BAÑICO bringing to many foreign ports.

"Bahinog yung mga hanains ni nagga-good time, ako ay naghahanap ng mga antique. Hi-nahanap ko ay mga gallery at art exhibit. Bawat antique na hindi ko-ay nandoon ko ang kasiyahan."

In large part, he attributes his heritage consciousness to the upbringing he got from his late journalist-father who, despite the financial hardship, didn't fail to impress upon his children the significance of learning and appreciating culture and heritage.

"It was a quantum leap for me," Bañico says. "We may not be rich in material gain, but we are certainly rich in the things of the spirit. I hold on to my dreams, using my difficulties and weaknesses as my strength."

Now 48, Bañico has become a top antique collector. The secret, he says, is modeling one's character, having intuition, vision and the desire to improve one's life.

"Every piece has its own life, a distinct history attached to it," he says about his collection.

Today the former seaman is proud of his collection, consisting of over a hundred works of the Masters—Juan Luna, Fabi Resurreccion Hidalgo, Simbulan de la Rosa—and contemporaries—Botasli, Dalit Olondo, Nena Saguil, Dalmanda, Imao, Manansala, Dompio, etc.

His antiques include a rosewater-old crucifix, an ivory bio, 1880s, and other sacred icons. He also has sitting Buddha vases and Japanese furniture.

"The Philippines still has some of the best art and antique pieces, especially our paintings, because they have a global appeal," he says. "We are at par with Asian, European and American collections. Even the foreign market goes for our art and antiquities."

Bañico laments, however, that Filipinos fail to appreciate their cultural patrimony. "We aren't conscious of our rich cultural heritage, unlike other nations that take care of their prized collections. We are not properly oriented, and perhaps because we are a poor nation. We have other priorities."

His own trade group, the Prime Asia Trade Planners and Convention Organizers, is holding the 11th Sinulong Arts and Antiques Show at the Greenhills Shopping Complex until Oct. 10.

"I feel elated by people, mostly big names in the industry, as well as students, office workers and shoppers. Backing is our exhibit that includes ancestral, tribal, modern, Western, turn-of-the-century furniture and furnishings," Bañico says.

With the same passion and intensity as when he was just starting with the angelito collection 31 years ago, the Graduate-born antique collector says he will continue to work so that Filipinos can appreciate and love their heritage.

ADOBE, vases, pots and paintings

CHINESE plates

OLD Philippine money

ILONGOT cabinet

Feng-shui art by Reyes

LEOPOLDO Reyes opens his exhibit in Galerie Joaquin at The Podium on Oct. 7, at 7 p.m.

"A Touch of Gold" features 26 works showing the exotic species of the gold-fish family, and koi, the fish of choice of Asian royalty. Both varieties are symbols of wealth, good luck and good fortune.

Reyes is presenting larger works this time. The show is his invitation to good luck and good fortune as his works have many favorable feng-shui elements.

A graduate of the UP School of Fine Arts, Reyes has won major awards. He had worked and exhibited in Australia for almost a decade before coming back to the Philippines to devote his life to painting.

Call 7235333 and 6347994.

"PRELUDE"

SO WHAT COKE ARE YOU, REALLY?

Did you know that it's easy to tell someone's character by the things he or she likes? Take the quiz below and be surprised how much your taste tells a lot about who you are and, most of all, what Coke will best refresh you.

What would you wear on a big date?
A. A creamy, all-black ensemble from top to toe
B. Whatever's loose and comfortable
C. Preppy silhouette that's deliberately neutralo
D. Body-hugging that will show your assets

Who are the artists on your CD rack?
A. Maroon 5, Alicia Keys
B. Hedonistiara, Imaboh
C. Dashboard Confessional
D. Ministry of Sound, 1999

What do you read?
A. Newspaper and novels
B. Independent titles
C. Comics and zines
D. Magazines and self-help books

How do you like your steak?
A. Well done
B. Plain
C. Medium rare
D. I don't eat steak

What is your dream cell phone?
A. The less complicated, the better
B. Something that no one else has
C. With lots of games and software to operate
D. Streamlined, with lots of stylish covers

What's you dream car?
A. Anything that has four wheels and aircon
B. SUV
C. Beetle
D. Porsche

How will you pose in your yearbook photo?
A. Something that mommy would hang on the wall
B. Wacky and crazy, with tongue sticking out
C. You really don't care
D. Glamorous, almost like a magazine photo shoot

Now, the fun part. Below is an assessment of your personality profile. Find out which one you are based on your answers above. As a bonus, we've also written down which Coca-Cola best describes and suits you. After all, there's nothing like grabbing a Coke that'll refresh you, the-way you want it to.

Mostly A's
You're a classic. Everyone finds it easy to talk to you, and you get along well with almost everybody. You find it easy to get new friends, even in the most unlikely places.

So to speak, you're like the Regular Coke. The one that everyone has always loved.

Mostly B's
You're on the wild side. You like to explore new places, and you love the outdoors. You find satisfaction in experimenting, and is happy knowing that there's always something different to do.

If you were a Coke, you'd be Cherry Coke. There's always a cherry wild side in you.

Mostly C's
You've got a lot going for you coz you've got it just right. You always see the fun side of things. Easy-going and humorous, surely no party will be the same without you.

You're definitely a Vanilla Coke—you have just the right touch of vanilla.

Mostly D's
You're also sophisticated. You always strive to improve yourself. You go to the gym, eat healthy food, because you know they're good for you. You're a New Age phenomenon!

Coke Light best suits you. It's the same Coke but with less than 1 calorie, it's good for you.

Baby of a thousand ovations

By Zenaida Amador
Contributor

WATCHED Baby Barredo for the final casting of the musical she's directing, the MGM version of "The Wizard of Oz."

Meticulous as ever, she paid attention to every manner of note and byte for the musical interpretations, insisted on the actors picking at the best and cutest of the moaning, and contented laughably with choreographer James del Prado for what she assured for the dance bit.

It was a long, laborious evening, but she got what she wanted.

Baby has such an eye for sieve the studied detail that not being escaped her me and nerdy ing octopus but sir's perfect pitch. Truly the director's director.

Toast of local theater

Perhaps one reason Baby is such a good director is that she is an excellent creative actress. And she honed those instincts with formal study at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York. Not to mention her M.O. in music in Bloomington, Indiana, (between the dramatic school) and special studies in ballroom.

But, latest stints on stage were "The Glory Of Ruth," "Scott Pacific," "Oliver," "Over The River and Through The Woods," "Mister Claus" and "Late Nite Catechism." Before that, of course, she was the toast of local musical theater in "Mame," "The Sound of Music," "Hello, Dolly," "My Fair Lady" and in Babirawa in "Man of La Mancha."

She also had a TV show called "Baby et My Name," which featured excerpts from musicals and plays. Before, she just came to the director's seat unprovoked.

She stopped singing when she thought it was time to, and only took straight plays when she was needed in the play. Like the good trooper that she is.

Right now, we had called "The Owl and The Pussycat," a two-hander with Menise Bravo, for a once-night extension done at the UP but she had also just over which her old family doctor later on could read was 86 Bravo.

She patently went on changing her blocking notes and lines, which Bravo acknowledged and nobody in the audience pay mind. They got a standing ovation at the end of the show. It was midnight on the hospital after that for Baby.

Then, during a performance of "The Sound of Music," the director suddenly finally better-get'ting into the car to go to CCE. Her ankle was swollen so badly, she couldn't put on her shoes. Inez Dizon, Emily Pangilinan's boyfriend, Dr. Pamintuan, was backstage, so he gave her a shot and told her to try not to put weight on the injured ankle.

Well, she had to sing and dance, so she stood about and did what she had to do. When the painkiller wore off, it was inevitably to wear. Or the end of the show, and she limited right after curtain call. But she did finish the show.

Pioneering days

There are so many other instances where, with back pain or flu, she just went on because, as she put it, "you can't disappoint that audience out there."

Most actors and actresses are more comfortable, with better pay, rehearsal time and understudies or alternates or swings.

But we were pioneering in theater then, and life is always harder for those who run the gate. The captain is, the discipline is strong, the commitment unwavering, and the curse (though believed worldwide). All this, Baby continues to bring to the theater.

As I watched Baby working long into the audition night, with local getting tired, impatient or giving up on anything right to the very end, I wondered why people do the things they do. More specifically, why artists spend so much time on their art when the pay is not at all commensurate (at least in the country) nor the work fulfilling always.

Some times it seems so unfair that some can live so and commit so much and give their all, while undeserving grafters get away with murder and get rich in the bargain.

But I shouldn't wonder why. Baby simply dismisses these guesthouses with "I sleep very well at night."

BABY Barredo as the legendary opera star Maria Callas in the award-winning play "Master Class"

GLAMOUR as Wendy Mary in the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic "South Pacific." Above photo is Raymund Lumbangon as Emile de Becque.

The leading lady of Philippine theater is an excellent intuitive actress and a true director' director

Campus face-off

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

THE YEAR would likely be characterized as "The Year of the Mismo as" in the Metro Manila theater scene is concerned.

Tuna Mercado's fiercely liberal sensibilities questioned a pretended Church in "Jesus Complex," "Sam Gorgio" and Tanghalang Pilipino's "Trojan Women," led by Madeleine Nicolas' bloody but unbowed Hecuba, railed against the horrors of a war that is branched, laughs, and wars by mess.

Now it's the turn of mom's doctors Inc. (MD) in its one-weekend run of David Mamet's highly acclaimed "Oleanna." The time, the battle is fought inside the cliff, proper confines of the academe, and as to the participants' two pliers, it's definitely the grades.

A fairly lady student sues sexual harassment in the alumni—which may be more verbal and emotional, than physical—of his in regard, knees it all professor.

Turning the tables

On a two-month vacation from her studies and the beginning stranger to secure a stage career in London, Lara Fabregas made the role of Carol, the more mousey one who turns the table and becomes the predator.

She doesn't come from a wealthy family, and it took her a lot to get to that school. She's also very angry over politically correct, and has no insignificant," says Fabregas of the courage characters.

The verbal beacon starts when Carol brags professor John not to fail her. Another student, and this no-nonsense, deep-down coupling before empty pleases that it can take no more.

John likes to talk a lot and throw out all his theories. When he starts preventing that higher education is really a waste of time, Carol finally lash. "I hear one more time when I studied hard to get here, and you, a teacher, you're all a joke!"

Expect a lot of the intellectual debate and answering intensity that usually accompany an MA play. Interior Rod Cumpioan, who also plays John, defends the denial publicity hints of a latent sexual tension between these strong characters in a love-hate relationship.

"There is purely hate here. The material is embracing, makes no compromises, and is gripping but not rescue—until you get to the point where it almost becomes hard to bend control. It will anger and polarize you, and make you feel you dare agree with each other," he says.

LARA Fabregas and Ravi Gangwani in David Mamet's "Oleanna"

In the opposite corner and sets as the zealot, both characters explain they have a lot to lose. John risks his tenure and his academic reputation, while Carol faces expulsion.

Gangwani says, "It's about the whole controversy can game where the currency is power, and everyone is wrestling with trading for it."

Rejuvenation of sorts

The dramatic tension that the play brings to the characters, audience, and actors alike is a rejuvenation of sorts for Fabregas. The actress, who has played stints (Most of Air) and switched to studies, studies "Oleanna" "Shopping and Fucking"), remains candid about a Filipino actress' gaining entry into London theater, especially a non-musical drama.

"You're typecast in a way when they look for an ethnic actress. You feel stupid doing some of these things—like playing That monsoon is a potion... but you do it. But it's not just Asian casting. I've auditioned for Medea (mezzo) and American parts in dramas, and I'm not Rhea Owen. I sound, be the leading lady of a Judi Law film but they cast someone with accents—that usually happens."

Feeling unfit too, "I used to opt to services because I might be rejected. Now if I'm rejected, it doesn't affect me anymore. Yes, keep pushing because in the end of the day you never know," says Fabregas.

She can also laugh good-naturedly at some of the casting perspectives she's encountered. "The weirdest audition was for a French film and the script a French. My character a American who speaks French, so I was told that it was okay if my accent was not perfect. But I couldn't understand what I was saying! Scripts read it and feelit myself, 'Bahala na!' You can get thick-skinned."

Then there were the first 14 months when she tried wanting on castings. "I remained tried it in the beginning, that I was an actress, and accepted whatever was on the table. Sometimes I'd say 'Let me out of here! I can't stand this!'"

But intellectual interests, and pressure to a career option, Fabregas is taking law lessons in criminal reasoning at Open University. Her studies gave her room and time for auditions, as interesting is done online and the various subjects can be taken at one's pace.

While the actress remains mum about her break-up with Raymond Bagatsing, she is more open about her new love whose privacy she prefers to respect. "I am seeing somebody," she confirms, a bit of a glow lighting up her face. "He's a British banker. He's in finance together here a year. He's fun and adventurous. He enjoy the same things like mountain hiking, good food and walking. He is very supportive, I was just about to be born (in Rhadid) on holiday for two months, but he suggested that I stay longer [and so] I became his lover I was in [international] London."

Delays and occasional hurdles notwithstanding, Fabregas remains on track, with an eye toward the bright side. "I'm independent. I have age to pay the rent. I thought London is more expensive than Paris."

The light glow subtly shifts into an intense flame: shades of the rising sun rays that Oleanna goes will see in the theater this weekend. Fabregas' last words might well be the conclusion. Carol's: "I have a still something to work for. I haven't achieved yet what I set out to achieve."

ART "Oleanna" runs at Repertoire's 2/F Shangri-La Plaza Mall on Oct. 8. ☎ 633/5306844

'Florante at Laura' as a 'komedya'

GAWAD BALA Theatre Foundation (GTF), together with the Mayland Parks Development Committee (MPDC), is presenting Francisco Balagtas' "Florante at Laura," staged in the form of the Filipino komedya, beginning Oct. 10 at St. Scholastica's College, Manila.

This year by Balagtas, believed to be written by the poet during his prison term, is an end-along metrical Filipino romance that uses, bodies homicide, courtesy and love told in 399 twelve-syllable Tagalog quatrains.

As GTF president and creative director Tata Esparza explains, "We are going this to fulfill the poem as artistic freedom as we see an authentic Filipino theater form...the komedya. Elements of the komedya such as the warcho (slow tempo sentences), pare duhan (broken and tasty-paced entrances), prophecy (Zaidonia and Mora) celebrations such as and dance with regalia entire lines in sets, out, and prepare to battle), and battalia (duel of the warring armies) are all in the play. All these will surely entertain and educate the viewers, and deepen their appreciation and understanding of this Filipino drama treasure."

Cast are the GTF Actors Company led by Arlene du Silva (Florante), Adriano Agustin (Laura), Wowie de Guzman and Richard Quan (Antenor) playing Adolfo / Belardo, Ira Pat Herring (Aurora), Bodjet Pascua (Duke Briseo), Fatalia Yamadova Jr. (Menandro), Ana Roces-Cruz and Michael Ong Sr. (Count Ardo) playing Baltag, Flossie Quinzon (Minister) playing Haring Flossie Quinzon (Minister) playing Haring Florante, Jose Mari Avellana (Antenor) and Paula Peralta and Mikki Hernandez (alternately playing Florante).

Performances are on Oct. 10-17 (10 a.m. / 2 p.m., 30, Golden Wall, St. Scholastica's College, Manila), Oct. 22-24 (10 a.m. / 2 p.m., AFP Theater, Quezon City), and Nov. 1 and 8 (10 a.m. / 2 p.m., RFC Cinemas Theater, Las Piñas City).

Call 8996746 or 4996884.

YUTAKA Yanakawa Jr. (Menandro) and Ariel Da Silva (Florante)

Seminar on financial fitness

THE COLLEGE Foundation for Education, Inc. headed by Francisco J. Colayco, ex-chief of Barbosa-Ledesma book "Wealth Rich, on Your Beach (Pero Mo Pelagio) 1994," will conduct a five-hour seminar on financial matters together with other financial experts on Oct. 15 and Nov. 12 at the Conference Room of SM Megamall's Hall, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

Colayco has been presenting a series of "Endurance vs. Enjoyment" seminars in Hong Kong for the OFW sector. We also seem is to educate the working class, OFWs and their families and students that financial independence is within everyone's reach.

Call 4894205, 4894954, 4894955 or text 0918 9937555. E-mail collegefoundation@yahoo.com or visit www.tcfedu.com

Wonderful shell of heritage

By Andrea B. Ocampo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo meets the new Ayala Museum with museum director Nina Bulos; former President Corazon Aquino, Vice President Noli de Castro and Ayala Foundation chairperson Zobel de Ayala.

The Ayala Museum starts anew on its aim to allow our history and culture to become a source of pride for Filipinos

MEMORY has changed so much and so fast in the last half-century that it is possible to date people by the Makati landmarks they remember: Rizal Theater, Bricktown, Makati Supermarket, Ayala Arcade, Mandarin Apartments, QUAD, etc. All these places are now extinct as far as memory, they remember, but basic memories to people who now walk, work and shop around Greenbelt 1, 2, 3, 4, Glorietta 1 and 2, the Makati Shangri-La Hotel and OTS.

Some structures like the present Filipinas Heritage Library on Makati Avenue, between the old Makati Stock Exchange building and the Peninsula Hotel, were once the Harbor Town Restaurant, and earlier the Manila International and Air Terminal, or another popular ethnic eatery in existing Makati avenue (as was Dean de Roxas'). What buildings you remember about Makati precede your age.

When the old Ayala Museum was demolished two years ago some cultural heritage conservationists complained that the unconstitutionality of Makati had a numbing effect on people lending too much of concern over the square, closed concrete box designed by the late National Artist Arch. Angel Nakpil and Y. Locsin. So its plans now stands as imposing as every structure of granite, glass and steel, designed by Leandro V. Locsin Jr.—a new Ayala Museum bigger and better than the old one. In time the Ayala Museum will sleep the adjective new and the old structure will again be a memory.

What most people remember about the old Ayala Museum is a long and dark tunnel containing 40 handcrafted dioramas that provide a rustic but three-dimensional episodic history of the Philippines. These dioramas are still around, in the second floor of the museum, spruced up and equipped with other materials like reflections of boat models and even wall chairs that make visitors more themselves, physically at least, with Jose Rizal, Andres Bonifacio and Manuel Luis Quezon. It is better lighted and a delight to visit. While the diorama do not extend to 2004, the end of the way are three rooms with a multimedia presentation that remind us of Pre-Hispanic and Emilio Aguinaldo, Rizal Line, Barrigan and Cory Aquino and of course, People Power 1986. It is a record of memory and yet how well it remember beyond the present building or the original (1976) building inaugurated in 1974? Is even imagine the beginnings of the museum in the Insular Life building in the 1960s.

FACADE of the new Ayala Museum

Bigger space

With a bigger space, equipped with more state-of-the-art galleries, the present museum is a wonderful shell designed to house not only the museum's modest collection of pre-colonial and colonial artifacts, paintings by Juan Luna, Fernando Amorsolo and Fernando Zobel, maps, prints, but as exhibition space for important exhibitions. The inaugural shows on the fourth floor give us a view of life in the past through an exhibit of rosary images made in the Philippines (some sixty-seven by Chinese artisans) from the 16th to the 19th centuries.

While most of the great pieces were exported to Spain, Mexico, and other countries, the images gathered from local collections is a good reminder not all our cultural treasures are abroad. Titled "Peace • Faith • Image," this exhibition, curated by Ramon Villegas and Reginaldo Tosta Jose, comes with a handsome catalogue that is, for the moment, the last word on ivory things once brought to the Spanish or Mexican but are now listed in inventories of auction catalogues rightly as "Hispano-Philippine ivories."

"Multiple Originals, Original Multiples" is another exhibit that brings together for the first time the watercolor albums of Philippine costumes by Damian Domingo, one from the Ayala Museum collection, the other from the Newberry Library in Chicago.

Another album of watercolors depicting different types of 19th-century Filipinos and their costumes was brought to from the New York Public Library and was put side by side with a set of similar photos, initially engravings hand-colored by the 19th-century Filipino master Justiniano Asunción.

Bought by curators at auctions there two albums from Chicago and New York have never been loaned outside the US and they are both here on a homecoming visit and afford us not only a glimpse of life in the past, but provide some comparison and contrast with similar artifacts in the Philippines.

Notable in the exhibition are several pieces of clothing from the Leiden Museum of Ethnology in the Netherlands that exhibit Dutch documentation in the Dominican and Jesuit era albums. During the opening night mass guests literally swoon in corsets-made Philippine attire found on Dutch women.

These costumes have been kept in storage for over a century and most are being exhibited publicly for the first time. While lighting and climate control concerns have cautioned curators during their Philippine visit, conservation requires that upon their return to the Netherlands these costumes will be laid to rest and not be exhibited again for the next seven years.

How open to the public and dedicated to the Filipino People by the Ayala Foundation, the Ayala Museum didn't move to its site not only to collect and record, but this past but to allow our history and culture to become a source of pride for Filipinos as they continue an ascension to the

Conference on national and local history in Cavite

THE PHILIPPINE National Historical Society, founded in 1941 and the oldest historical society in the Philippines, will hold its 25th National Conference on National and Local History in Oct. 21-23 at Cavite State University including Cavite.

Retired Prime Minister Cesar E. A. Virata, president of the Cavite Historical Society, will deliver the keynote address on "Cavite's Economic Transformation from the Past."

This is the first National Conference on Local and National History to be held in Cavite, the PHS has held annual conferences on local and national histories in various locations in the country.

"The conference theme this year is 'Focus on Cavite Studies: Local History in the Context of National History,' with papers to be presented on a variety of topics covering the history and culture not just of Cavite but also of Luzon and the greater southern Visayas and Mindanao, and even the Diaspora.

Among these topics are the region's culinary and church history, Cavitean writers, Chinese presence, the PC Road, folk songs, dating-serving and religious festivals, population history, everyday life during the Revolution, the archaeology of Cavite Puerto, nationalist history, documentary sources on religious history in Cavite, and Cavite historiography.

The speakers include the following: Eugenio L. Songalang and A.G. Pepe (Cavite State University), Emmanuel Luis A. Santamaría (UP Diliman), Peter Frederick Jon Maria, Antonio T. Hila (PHS-Manila), Arsenio S. Godfrey and Edgar B. Maayon (PHS-Provincial), Jeffrey A. Labang (National Historical Institute), Reginaldo Tevez Ana, Jr. (University of Santo Tomas), Jose Alvin J. Austria (DLSU-Saint Benilde), Augusto de Viana (National Historical Institute), Elmo S. Alung (DLS-Dasmariñas), Emmanuel F. Calairo (DLS-Dasmariñas), Elmer A. Gedaleta (UP Diliman), Earl Aede Paul Cayco (Silliman), Bene B. Bonifacio (PLSU-Marcilla), Rosalito B. Manrai (DLSU-Manila), Francis A. Gealogo (Ateneo de Manila), Daniel T. Yeddo (UP Baguio), Rolando G. Borromeo (UP Manila, Palo, Leyte), Cielo Anito (MSU-Iligan), Philip Salazares, Rhoda Elena B. de Castro (University of Santo Tomas), and Bernardito B. Churchill.

Call 9241775, 9241327, 9241324, 4264551, 4264554 or 4264597. E-mail philnathist@hotmail.com or chvirata@mail.cbe.ua.phi.edu.ph

New auction of Philippine art

NUDE sculpture by Brocoli

By Jessica Zafra-Bobis
Contributor

ONCE again, premier Philippine artists shall figure in the Christie's auction of Southeast Asian art. The works shall be exhibited at Grand Hyatt Singapore on Oct. 8 and it is a preview to the bidding.

Anita Magsaysay-Ho's "A Walk in the Rain" is rare. She is largely known for her women with fans and, but the work in the auctioned does not show facial features. Just the rains, it exudes the aristocracy of the characters of her paintings. The subject and the mood matches very well for Christie's per the scope it continues to foster Philippine history.

It has also the understated wedding of the native and modernity signified by the blurry umbrella-looking figures in the background. The boy is barefoot while in contrast, those covered by the umbrella seem shod and are in more traditional garb. The rain serves as a perfect foil to the tropical scene.

It calming reactions to pinks, lavenders, and purple is Nena Saguil's statements. The work partner the artist's residential photos. From her signature elevation each are petal-like halves. Those result to what may be called intense pulsations, much like a mirage, or if the land wasn't over-torture a bad, luminary colors, if not a monotone, of light.

"Mango Vendors" is a visage by Amado Amorsolo, his women holding exotic beauty a mango tree, sunlight dappling the ground through gaps of the greenery foreclose.

It is true, however, if some artists who stand fetch the highest possible bid in their hands. In the ensuing for highest bidding is a Victorio Manansala watercolor, the 1960 "Construction," which is estimated at six figures in American currency.

The work is an amalgam of the artist's characters and his art-making. It encapsulates how he lived and, with faith, and the profound effect both had on his art.

The rains may be of two distinct seasons: remarking a scene, or evoking the wife of Cleophas or Cleopa, and Mary Magdalene in the best the unedited Jesus fastened of the Virgin Mary and John the Beloved). Whichever, Manansala's talents is apt in the final stage of this Christ's progress.

The enduring nude sculpture of Boccoli may be remembered the modern-day David. The figure, seemingly male, is androgynous, with long hair and a little figure, slight-torso. Maybe circumcised or a real-like Twiggy physique.

The treasures are not necessarily patriotic, but then today's male masterpieces do not necessarily fall under the "boudoirist" category. The fusion of the the classical and the contemporary is fitting in this age of the metrosexual.

Other Southeast Asian works in the auction include those by Indonesians Hendra Gunawan and Affandi, and Singaporean Georgette Chen. Also featured are the Southeast Asian-themed works of Rudolf Bonnet of the Netherlands, and Belgian Adrien-Jean Le Mayeur de Merpres.

It has been noted Philippine art is different from those of the other countries in the region in that locally any foreigners are generated of to market. Filipino artists continue to rule the land corner.

But homegrown Filipino art is on par with the rest of Southeast Asia and the world is shown in successes such as Christie's. Indeed, the lion's bidding for Philippine art in these international readings should show it can hold its own against the best art of other nations.

Email author at jzafra@yahoo.com

REGOLF Bonnet painting

VICENTE Manansala's "Crucifixion"

WORK by the Indonesian Affandi

AMORSOLO'S "Mango Vendors"

ABSTRACT by Nena Saguil

ARTWORK by Constantino

ANITA Magsaysay-Ho's "A Walk in the Rain"

Racing event to benefit artists and cultural workers

ON OCT. 9, the Asian Cultural Council Philippines Foundation will sponsor a special racing event at the Manila Jockey Club, San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite, to raise funds for grants to deserving Filipino artists.

Many established cultural icons have at one time or another been recipients of Asian Cultural Council grants, such as Lamberto Emeling and Jose Monsalve, Jose Joya, Nestor Jardin, Nilda Aguilar, Ramon, Dennis Reyes and Nino Escalante.

The Cup is organized by the boundary leaders Gene Wilson and Brenda Rhodes, their real president of the council.

The first Filipino Artists Cup event will feature a rodeo demonstrator, depicting the risk of past national and influential Filipino artists and their present-day counterparts who continue to enrich the Filipino soul.